

Hafa Adai!

MANGO elects new board, hires staff for its Lemmai-Mei Project. **PAGE 2**  
Fewer errors expected in release of 2nd stimulus payments. **PAGE 3**

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### THE STAGE IS SET

The American Memorial Park outdoor theater construction has finally been completed. Tri-don Co. and Celnap Enterprises were seen starting construction last year in September, with reported improvements such as re-plastering damaged cement in the audience seats, giving the entire area a fresh coat of paint, and repairing the storm drain, which will help prevent any future flooding. The project ended just a couple of weeks ago.

NEIL FAMA

# Dotts no longer IPI general counsel

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Veteran lawyer Michael W. Dotts is no longer the general counsel of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, but is still the lawyer for IPI in a few cases.

» But Dotts still lawyer in a few IPI cases  
» Lawyer says even though Browne already resigned as CEO, he still has to appear in court Thursday

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry, Dotts said yesterday that his contract to work as IPI's general coun-

sel expired on Dec. 31, 2020, and that he has not entered into a new contract with

See DOTTIS on Page 4

## 'Online registration for COVID-19 vaccine helps'

» One more tests positive in CNMI

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**  
[justine\\_nauta@saipantribune.com](mailto:justine_nauta@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

A month after the CNMI opened its vaccination portal for online registration, Esther Muña, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s chief executive officer, said that online registration helps the CNMI plan an effective strategy that

See VACCINE on Page 4

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

### AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Jan 18, 2021

| GUAM                                | OLD   | NEW | TOTAL   |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-----|---------|
| Positive                            | 7,481 | 3   | 7,484   |
| Recovered                           | 7,220 | 0   | 7,220   |
| Active                              | 134   | 3   | 137     |
| Deaths                              | 126   | 1   | 127     |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested |       |     | 107,087 |

| SAIPAN                                 | OLD | NEW | TOTAL   |
|--|-----|-----|---------|
| Positive                               | 128 | 1   | 129     |
| Traced via Travel Screening            | 102 | 1   | 103     |
| Traced via Community Screening         | 26  | 0   | 26      |
| Deaths                                 | 2   | 0   | 2       |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested    |     |     | 26,131* |
| Days since last community transmission |     |     | 153     |

\*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

## FBI vetting Guard troops in DC amid fears of insider attack



By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. defense officials say they are worried about an insider attack or other threat from service members involved in securing President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, prompt-

See FBI on Page 4

National Guard troops reinforce security around the U.S. Capitol ahead of the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021, in Washington.

AP

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Handmade cards by Jill Arenovski: "Small idea with a big impact."

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### NATION

Right-wing protesters gather outside heavily fortified statehouses around the country.

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### ASIA

Coronavirus infections in the Philippines have surged past 500,000 in a new bleak milestone.

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## Local

### MANGO elects new board, hires staff for its Lemmai-Mei Project

The Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations, or MANGO, announced Thursday last week the election of new board members, led by Maisie B. Tenorio as chairperson, Felicidad Ogumuro as vice chairperson, Emma Perez as secretary, Annale' S. Torres as treasurer, and Laurie Peterka as member.

The MANGO board of directors also hired staff to spearhead the Lemmai-Mei Nonprofit Incubator Project, a \$682,000 three-year grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Native Americans.

Tenorio is executive director of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence that she co-founded in 2005. She has served in many social service capacities over the years, including serving as a board member for other youth-focused nonprofits, including the CNMI Youth Alliance and the Micronesian Youth Services Network. Tenorio is also the newly elected secretary/treasurer for the CNMI State Board of Education. Tenorio holds two bachelor's degrees from Oregon State University: one in Human Development & Family Sciences, and the other in Psychology.

Ogumuro has a long and distinguished political and public service career going back to before the creation of the Commonwealth. Among

her innumerable accomplishments and contributions to the CNMI are five terms in the CNMI Legislature including the 1st CNMI Legislature. A widely known champion of indigenous rights in the Marianas, she is co-founder and treasurer of the Northern Marianas



Ogumuro

Descent Corp., program administrator for the CNMI Women's Association, and member of the Chief Aghurubw Foundation. Ogumuro holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from St. Mary's College in Leavenworth, Kansas.



Perez

Perez was elected board secretary and selected as project controller for the Lemmai-Mei Project. She is a 30-plus-year nonprofit finance professional with broad experience in accounting and finance roles—including controller, accounting manager, and

director of finance—for the Walt Disney Family Museum, Zero Divide, the San Francisco Ballet, the San Francisco Symphony, California Pacific Medical Center, and SFJAZZ. Locally, she worked as assistant director of Finance at the Hyatt Regency Saipan before devoting her

See MANGO on Next Page



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# Fewer errors expected in release of 2nd stimulus payments

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Division of Revenue and Taxation expect fewer errors in releasing the second stimu-

lus payments via direct deposits because of the lessons it learned in the release of the first stimulus funds.

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, division di-

rector Tracy Norita said the first stimulus was also their first time to issue direct deposit payments. "And so we learned a lot from our first experience [in] receiving bank information from tax-

payers," she said.

Norita said they are upgrading the online portal that they will soon open so that they can minimize the errors that they receive from taxpayers such as

when entering the wrong routing number or the incorrect number of digits for their account numbers. "Those types of things that we received, we have to clean out to make sure that we comply with banking regulations. We can't just send incorrect account numbers [or] routing numbers to the bank for a transfer," she said.

This time around, Norita said, they are hoping that they can assist taxpayers in inputting clean data so that they can get their payments out as soon as possible.

The director said the link to

the portal will be on the main Department of Finance website page.

Norita disclosed that they are expecting to get 90% of their total estimate of who will receive the second stimulus or about \$42 million in advance transfer from the U.S. Internal Revenue Services.

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig also said Friday at the same news briefing that those who want to get their second stimulus payment via direct deposit will receive the money first than those who want their payments in checks.

Atalig said payments may start by Feb. 1, their ideal target date.

## MANGO

From Page 2

time to helping local cultural organizations and nonprofits. She is former president of the Saipan Swim Club, serves on the board of the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation, and is co-founder of 500 Sails where she is board secretary/treasurer and project controller.



Torres

Torres is a senior auditor with Burger Comer Magliari CPAs. She previously worked as an accountant and certified Bank Secrecy Act officer at Bank of Saipan for 15 years. She previously worked for U.S. Airways as a payroll specialist. Torres began her career as a sales associate for Duty Free Shoppers, Ltd. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Argosy University in Hawaii and an associate degree in Liberal Arts from Northern

Marianas College. Torres is currently pursuing a master's degree in Accountancy with University of Phoenix.



Peterka

Peterka is a 27-year CNMI business professional with an history of community service through a wide range of local non-profits. Peterka co-founded several local NGOs, including Friends of the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument, Island SK8 Society, the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association, and the Pacific Ombudsman for Humanitarian Law. Consulting for the CNMI community since 1998 under the trade name Practical Solutions LLC, she focuses her business acumen on helping stand up or organize non-profit organizations and to drive community-wide projects. She has helped facilitate nearly \$10 million dollars worth of grants awarded to the CNMI since 2009. Peterka has a Northern Marianas College associate degree in Liberal Arts, and a bachelor's degree in Management from the University of Phoenix.



Sablan

The MANGO Lemmai-Mei Project staff hires include Frances M. Sablan, executive director. Sablan is a Chamorro cultural practitioner, leader, and educator who served as a classroom teacher, school counselor, and vice principal. She is a member and past president of the Pacific Islands Bilingual Bicultural Association (NMI & International Chapters), a driving force behind the Man Antigo Cultural Dancers. She was a founding member of

MANGO and serves on the board of the Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc., Inetnon Amut yan Kutturán Natibu Mwischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Falúw (IAKN/MSKAF) and Amelia Earhart Memorial Monument, Inc. Sablan has a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from the University of Guam.



Camacho

Ryan Camacho was hired as project director. Camacho is formerly with the CNMI Department of Finance, where he served as financial services manager and technical financial analyst. He also worked for Seattle University as a retail coordinator and consultant for their deli. Camacho has an MBA and BA in International Business from Seattle University, and a Graduate School USA, Executive Leadership Development Program Certificate.

Arthur de Oro is the training director. De Oro joins MANGO from the Northern Marianas College where he served as director, Community Development Institute and grants coordinator. He serves as board president for 500 Sails, and is a board member of Guam nonprofit organizations Inafa'Maolek Conciliation and the South Pacific Peace Memorial Association. De Oro has a master's degree in Public Administration and bach-

elor's degree in Business Management from the University of Guam.



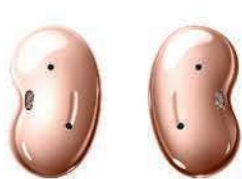
Narvaez

Angelika Narvaez was selected as the program assistant. Narvaez is a graduate of Marianas High School. Her previous employment includes guest services officer for Hyatt Regency Saipan, customer service assistant, Customized Teez, Okemos, Michigan, and front desk clerk, Coral Ocean Golf Resort Saipan. (PR)

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# UFO inducts new officers led by Masilungan

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
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REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization inducted a new set of officers last Jan. 9 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan, with Mar V. Masilungan replacing Gerry De Guzman as president of the organization.

According to UFO public information officer Mario Mayuga, Masilungan was already the acting UFO president last year after De Guzman moved to the U.S. mainland.

The induction ceremony was held at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa, with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang as the inducting official.

In his acceptance, Masilungan said he will create a database or tracking system “to respond quickly in the event of another calamity or pandemic.” Masilungan said the information collected can help government and non-profit agencies that promote health, tourism, education, and businesses.

Aside from Mayuga, the other new UFO officers are vice president Zaldy Quebral, secretary Birhen Martinez, assistant secretary Mildred Pabilando, treasurer Irene Santiago, assistant treasurer Ronnel Calma, auditor Ladyvir Canape, assistant auditor Segundo Lapeceros Jr., and assistant PIO Yolanda Villavicencio.

The UFO election was held on Nov. 21, 2020, at the Philippine Honorary Consulate’s support office.

The UFO board of directors consists of the heads of the 10 active organizations under UFO: Maria Annamae Adaza, Bayani Association; Hermie Coronejo, AKAP Pinoy; Noel Ordas, Bicol Association; Ariel Villanueva, Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects;



The 2020-2021 United Filipino Organization officers and board members pose for a photo at the induction of new officers for UFO last Jan. 9 at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, first left, inducts 10 new officers in the United Filipino Organization, headed by Mar V. Masilungan, second from left, at the induction of new UFO officers last Jan. 9 at the Hibiscus Hall in Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Raul Abordonado, MDX Amateur Radio Club; Eloisa Manese, Marianas Institute of Filipino CPA’s and Ac-

countants; Joselito Espino, Northern Marianas Bartenders Association; Edmin Elayda, Saipan Building &

Fixing Computer Users Group; Alex Nario, Santo Niño Group; and Aired Murillo, Tau Gamma Phi/Triskeleon.

Mayuga said the board will soon convene to elect the chairperson and secretary.

Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago said in a statement his office will continue to cooperate closely with UFO.

Renea Raho, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. nursing director, was the event’s guest speaker. She talked about the COVID-19 vac-

cine and the importance of following the three W’s: wash your hands, wear a face mask, and watch your social distance.

Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Bishop Ryan Jimenez, Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, CNMI Education Commissioner Dr. James Ada, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Eli Cabrera, and Lauri Ogumoro of Karidat Social Services were among the special guests.

## VACCINE

From Page 1

will help the islands get vaccinated.

Meanwhile, CHCC announced that one more person tested positive for COVID-19 last Jan. 17, raising the CNMI’s total to 129 cases since March 28, 2020. A CHCC statement posted on its Facebook page said that the individual was identified by travel screening and confirmed diagnosis through testing upon arrival.

“The individual has been safely in quarantine and was moved to the designated isolation area for close monitoring. CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed case, including passengers on the same flight,” the statement added.

Speaking at the radio news briefing last Friday, Muña stated that online registration makes it easier for the CHCC team, the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force, and the Torres-Palacios administration to determine the number of vaccines that are needed.

“It’s easier because we can determine the amount. ... You know, that requires a lot of technical issues. We need to make sure that we get the correct amount [of vaccines] from

the freezer, you thaw them out, you dilute them, and then you...open the vial and get [the vaccine] into the syringe, and you have a certain time to use those, so it is very important to know the numbers so that we can plan it,” said Muña.

For his part, task force chair Warren Villagomez, stated in the same radio news briefing that the CNMI’s strategies are “proven to be effective.”

“At the same time, I want to thank everyone for their proactive engagement and willingness to get vaccinated and we continue to campaign,” said Villagomez.

Both officials also confirmed that CHCC is going back to vaccinating the 60-years-old-and-above population who are part of Phase 1B. Muña stated that these individuals are a big group within the CNMI, based on the U.S. Census last year.

Muña said that when CHCC did the Phase 1A group, which included the 65-years-old-and-above population, barely anyone was showing up. However, when CHCC opened up vaccinations for the 60-years-old-and-above population, more people started showing up.

Muña stated that they will continue to determine if they need to lower the age group and get closer to more of the CNMI’s population.

## FBI

From Page 1

ing the FBI to vet all of the 25,000 National Guard troops coming into Washington for the event.

The massive undertaking reflects the extraordinary security concerns that have gripped Washington following the deadly Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol by pro-Trump rioters. And it underscores fears that some of the very people assigned to protect the city over the next several days could present a threat to the incoming president and other VIPs in attendance.

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy told The Associated Press on Sunday that officials are conscious of the potential threat, and he warned commanders to be on the lookout for any problems within their ranks as the inauguration approaches. So far, however, he and other leaders say they have seen no evidence of any threats, and officials said the vetting hadn’t flagged any issues that they were aware of.

“We’re continually going through the process, and taking second, third looks at every one of the individuals assigned to this operation,” McCarthy said in an interview after he and other military leaders went through

an exhaustive, three-hour security drill in preparation for Wednesday’s inauguration. He said Guard members are also getting training on how to identify potential insider threats.

About 25,000 members of the National Guard are streaming into Washington from across the country—at least two and a half times the number for previous inaugurations. And while the military routinely reviews service members for extremist connections, the FBI screening is in addition to any previous monitoring.

Multiple officials said the process began as the first Guard troops began deploying to D.C. more than a week ago. And they said it is slated to be complete by Wednesday. Several officials discussed military planning on condition of anonymity.

“The question is, is that all of them? Are there others?” said McCarthy. “We need to be conscious of it and we need to put all of the mechanisms in place to thoroughly vet these men and women who would support any operations like this.”

In a situation like this one, FBI vetting would involve running peoples’ names through databases and watchlists maintained by the bureau to see if anything alarming comes up. That could include involvement in prior investigations or terrorism-related concerns, said David Gomez, a for-

mer FBI national security supervisor in Seattle.

Insider threats have been a persistent law enforcement priority in the years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. But in most cases, the threats are from homegrown insurgents radicalized by al-Qaida, the Islamic State group or similar groups. In contrast, the threats against Biden’s inauguration have been fueled by supporters of President Donald Trump, far-right militants, white supremacists and other radical groups. Many believe Trump’s baseless accusations that the election was stolen from him, a claim that has been refuted by many courts, the Justice Department and Republican officials in key battleground states.

The insurrection at the Capitol began after Trump made incendiary remarks at the Jan. 6 rally. According to McCarthy, service members from across the military were at that rally, but it’s not clear how many were there or who may have participated in the breach at the Capitol. So far only a couple of current active-duty or National Guard members have been arrested in connection with the Capitol assault, which left five people dead. The dead included a Capitol Police officer and a woman shot by police as she climbed through a window in a door near the House chamber.

## DOTTS

From Page 1

the company.

“Most of my general counsel work actually stopped in early December when IPI was no longer able to pay me,” he said.

Dotts disclosed in May 2020 that he’s providing general counsel services to IPI during the company’s “transition time.” He defined general counsel to mean representing the company in legal matters on “anything that happens.”

“An employee stealing something in the morning, there’s an accident on the job site in the afternoon and the government wants to investigate—anything that happens, you can call the attorney and address it,” he had said.

As for Donald Browne’s resignation as IPI’s chief executive officer, Dotts said even though he may have already resigned, he still has to appear in federal court this Thursday.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered Browne and IPI’s chair Cui Li Jie to appear before the court this Thursday at 8:30am in connection with the U.S. Department of Labor’s lawsuit against IPI.

Manglona warned that failure to appear may result in the issuance of

a bench warrant for the arrest of Cui and Browne.

Dotts said Browne could be held in contempt, but the general rule is that a person cannot be held in contempt for violating a court order that they had no notice of. Dotts said his understanding is that Browne did not know there would be a settlement payment due to the U.S. Department of Labor worth over \$1 million on Dec. 1, 2020.

He said the consent judgment also required IPI to comply with federal labor laws and not paying workers is a violation of those laws.

“But based on Donald Browne’s declaration, he believed all the workers would be paid by Christmas. He did not intend a violation,” Dotts said.

IPI has been placed on independent monitoring in connection with then-U.S. Labor secretary R. Alexander Acosta’s lawsuit in federal court against IPI for alleged violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act over the construction of its casino/resort project in Garapan.

To resolve the lawsuit, IPI and Acosta agreed to an entry of a consent judgment in April 2019. IPI agreed to pay a total of \$3.36 million, which is composed of \$1.58 million in back wages, another \$1.58 million in liquidated damages, and \$200,000 in civil penalties.



# Hofschneider 1st lawmaker in 22nd Legislature to offer bill

**FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) has become the first lawmaker in the 22nd CNMI Legislature to pre-file a bill.

Hofschneider pre-filed two bills last Jan. 12, a day after being elected president dur-

ing the Senate's organizational session and inauguration.

Hofschneider already offered Senate Bill 22-01 and Senate Bill 22-02 last year, at the latter part of the 21st Legislature.

## » Bill seeks to remove marijuana from pre-employment, random testing

S.B. 22-01, which was formerly Senate Bill 21-74, will remove marijuana from all pre-employment testing and

random testing by all government employers and the Office of Personnel Management with certain exceptions.

Hofschneider stated in the bill that the enactment of Public Law 20-66, the "Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018," authorized personal, medicinal, and commercial use of cannabis or marijuana in the

CNMI. Yet P.L. 20-66 did not change or amend the drug testing policies of the CNMI government, he said, and still includes testing for marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinols in a person's system as a condition of employment. The bill was not acted upon by



Hofschneider

the 21st Legislature. On the other hand, S.B. 22-02, formerly Senate Bill 21-56 will give the mayors of Rota and Tinian authority to concur on all Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse applications, programs, and funding

for the two senatorial districts. Last month, the Senate passed the bill. The House of the Representatives, however, ran out of time to entertain it.

The OGM-SC was created to establish a database of federal grants being received by the CNMI. These OGM-SC mandates apply to Tinian and Rota as well.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Guam's tax filing season set to begin Feb. 12

**BARRIGADA, Guam**—The Guam Department of Revenue & Taxation announced yesterday that the 2021 income tax filing season is scheduled to begin on Friday, Feb. 12, 2021. This is the date that DRT will begin accepting 2020 tax year returns and is in line with the date that the Internal Revenue Service will also begin the nation's tax season.

This filing season certain taxpayers will have the option to receive their refunds by direct deposit. DRT worked with the Department of Administration to launch direct deposits of refunds for the first time in the last week.

DRT encourages taxpayers to file their Forms 1040 online. More details regarding online filing options and the direct deposit process will be released at a later date. For any questions regarding income tax filing, contact [incometax@revtax.guam.gov](mailto:incometax@revtax.guam.gov). (PR)

### Military trainings in Guam

**ASAN, Guam**—Military units will continue to conduct exercises in open ocean at the following coordinates: 13°48'N/144°41'E and Warning Area 517 until Jan. 28, from 8am to 11:30pm. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the exercises and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Radio Barrigada and Dandan-Malojloj on Jan. 19-21 from 9am to 11:55pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity during the training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in open ocean on Jan. 19-21 from 9am to 11:55pm at the following coordinates: 13°26'N/145°08'E, 13°42'N/144°36'E. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard

broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Agat Bay, Outer Apra Harbor, and Orote Point on Jan. 19-21, from 9am to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition will be used for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor on Jan. 19, from 10am to 4pm. The public is advised to be aware of the event.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor on Jan. 21 from 10am to 2pm. The public is advised to be aware of the event.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Inner Apra Harbor on Jan. 23, from 9am to 12pm. The public is advised to be aware of the event.

These trainings support readiness and are critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific. (PR)

## The Shack is latest NMC ProaPerks Partner

The Shack is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for Northern Marianas College students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now get 10% off food and beverages at The Shack.

Aside from The Shack, other ProaPerks partners are the 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, All-Star Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., Athlete's Foot, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Bubba Gump, Caravan of Food, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Docomo Pacific, D' Chef's Kitchen, Dollar Days (Garapan), En-

terprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC, dba Ginen Saipan, Healing Stones Spa, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc./Tan Marikita's Cafe, Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Ina's Kitchen, Isla Shave Ice, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/Tacobell, Kevin's Cafe, Kiki's, Latte Build Gym, Lohas Massage, Magbers Snack Bar, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk Tea, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Pacific Home Appliances, Pena House Bou-



The Shack is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now get 10% off food and beverages. File photo taken in 2019. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

tique, Saipan Computer Services, Salty's, Shirley's Cafe, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner cafe, Surf Club, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit [marianas.edu/proaperks](http://marianas.edu/proaperks).

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing [proaperks@marianas.edu](mailto:proaperks@marianas.edu). (NMC)

### ALLIED PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT CORP. IS LOOKING FOR:

#### CIVIL ENGINEER (1)

AT LEAST MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE, GREEN CARD OR US CITIZEN PREFERRED. RATE: \$18/HR STARTING SALARY IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL SCOTT MALIN AT 788-3381 OR EMAIL [Lilliabaptista21@yahoo.com](mailto:Lilliabaptista21@yahoo.com)

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES F0197  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670) 234-7859 « Fax. (670) 234-5749  
E-mail: [robert.torres@ttlawgroup.com](mailto:robert.torres@ttlawgroup.com)

Attorney for Petitioner Marilou B. Ortega,

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JESSIE RUIZ ORTEGA )  
NOTICE OF HEARING AND )  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS )  
DOB: 12/25/68 ) DATE: February 4, 2021  
Deceased. ) TIME: 9:00 A.M.  
JUDGE: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JESSIE RUIZ ORTEGA OR HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Marilou B. Ortega has petitioned the Superior Court of Northern Marianas Islands to Probate the Will and Letters Testamentary for the Estate JESSIE RUIZ ORTEGA, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plate Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or her Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein- above indicated.

Respectfully submitted this 29TH day of December 2020.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF COURT/DEPUTY CLERK

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ANTERINA RUBEN ROPON ) FCD-PA CIVIL ACTION  
Petitioner ) NO. 20-0331  
vs. )  
JERRY SAM JONES ) SUMMONS FOR  
Respondent, ) PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504942 CK, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2021

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF COURT



### UNITED STATES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



## NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 4th Quarter General Membership Meeting on January 29, 2021 from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the Pacific Islands Club, Charley's Cabaret, Saipan.

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of January 29, 2021
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2020
- V. Reports
  - a. Chairperson
  - b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
  - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  - d. Executive Director
- VI. Old Business
  - a. COVID-19 Pandemic Update
  - b. Emergency Preparedness Update
- VII. New Business
  - a. DD Basic Grant State Plan Development Survey
  - b. Assistive Technology Low Tech Tip
  - c. March 2021 - DD Awareness Month
  - d. Disability Awareness Campaign
- VIII. Action Items
  - a. Ratify the Approval of the Amended FY 2020 DD Basic Grant Budget
  - b. Ratify the Approval of the Amended FY 2020 Assistive Technology Grant Budget
- IX. Miscellaneous
- X. Next Meeting – March 2021
- XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Jan Barcinas  
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)



# 'NMI's situation would be bleaker without fed's help'

**FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) said the CNMI is grateful to the federal government for its continued assistance and that, without that help, the Commonwealth's current situation would have been much bleaker.

Speaking at the Senate's

*sine die* or final session, Santos said the 21<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Legislature has been fruitful, albeit trying and challenging. She said the economic decline has affected all three branches of the government, even more so the local municipalities, resulting in a very meager budget in fiscal year 2021.

The senator also pointed out that the CNMI was inundated

with consecutive disheartening news throughout the previous legislature such as the continued struggle to recover from super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic that caused a temporary gov-



Santos

ernment shutdown, indefinite cancellation of incoming flights, furloughed or terminated government and private employees and, for those who were able to keep their jobs, a significant cut in working hours, among other challenges.

"This is the new reality that the pandemic has created, not only for us but the entire world, with only a shadowy glimpse of recovery in sight," Santos said.

During these difficult times for the CNMI, she said, government leaders should continue to pledge their goodwill and earnest effort to find ways to come together to find the necessary compromises to bridge differences and help restore prosperity.

"We must understand that our love of the CNMI and our desire to improve the common good must always outweigh personal and partisan interests," she said.

Santos commended then-senators Francisco M. Borja and Sixto K. Igisomar for "enriching and inspiring this chamber with their charisma, professionalism, diplomacy, and expertise" and that it has been an honor and pleasure to be their colleague.

## Yap resort offers dive vacations to front-line workers

**COLONIA, Yap**—The remote island of Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia is among the few places in the world that remains free of COVID-19, thanks to its ocean border and a strict travel ban that has kept its residents safe.

Nonetheless, Yap has been affected too. As one of the world's premier, award-winning destinations for divers, this paradisiacal location in the western Pacific Ocean has had no outside visitors to its rich shores and reef for nearly a year. But while there may be no virus, the island hasn't been cut off from the economic impact experienced around the globe.

That didn't stop Bill Acker, CEO and founder of the Manta Ray Bay Resort and Yap Divers, from doing something, though.

Last March, soon after the island went into lockdown, Acker realized the effect of the virus on daily life beyond the island. "Yes, we are closed, have no divers, had to send our employees home and prepare for difficult times," he said. "But we're lucky in that we have, for the most part, avoided the human suffering and death this pandemic has caused."

Thinking about the problems

faced by his family business, they paled when he compared them to those endured by health care workers who have been fighting selflessly around the clock for months on end for the well-being and lives of others.

"One evening, while checking the news online, I saw pictures of front-line workers who were tending to desperately ill and dying people when families and friends could not be with their loved ones. It was heartbreaking," he said.

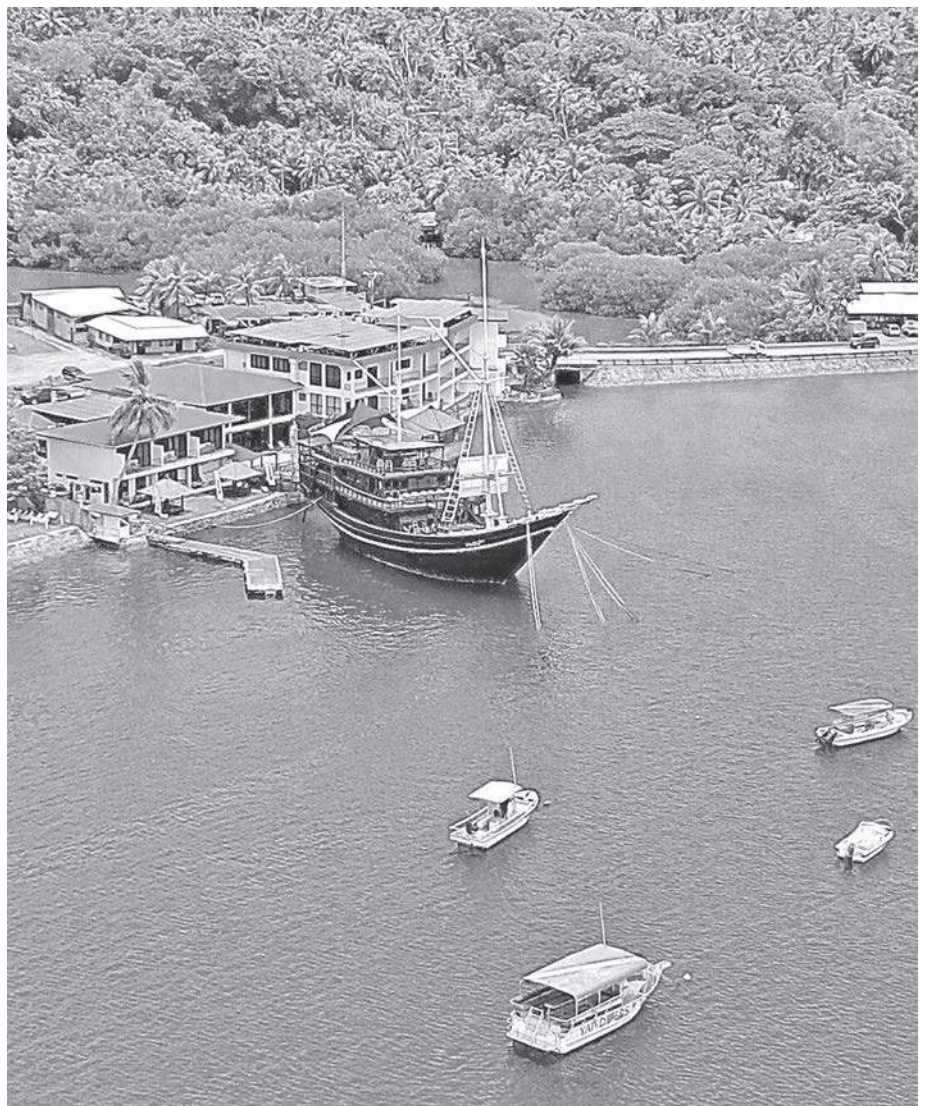
The next day, a meeting was held with the resort's staff and Acker invited suggestions for ways they could do something to honor health care workers. The result was the idea to award 20 divers who are working on the frontline to save other's lives during this pandemic while risking their own, with a free week at the resort.

Divers around the world who had been guests at Manta Ray Bay in the past were invited to submit the names of candidates for the award by Dec. 31, 2020. "We received nominations for 126 individuals from as far away as Germany, the U.S., Australia and Canada," he said. "It was not easy choosing the winners but

our committee of staff members took on the job and selected the 20 finalists."

"While trying to choose the people to reward for their hard work during this COVID-19 crisis," Acker said, "by reading the nominations we saw that every one of the nominees was doing things above and beyond the call of duty. Sadly, we don't have the finances to offer over 100 free weeks in Yap, but we do want to recognize the contributions all of them are making to our world. So we are offering the rest of the nominees a free week of diving in Yap, which includes room, hotel tax, airport transfers, breakfast, diving and Wi-Fi. The only requirement is that they travel with at least three other people and stay in two rooms or more."

"We do not yet know when Yap will open its borders," said Acker, "but when it does, we will welcome these important guests to Yap to relax and dive with the manta rays and the other beautiful denizens of the ocean surrounding our island home. They are the true heroes of this devastating, historic time and we look forward to honoring them with a well-deserved dive vacation. (PR)



The Manta Ray Bay Resort and Yap Divers in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia.

A. TAREG



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### INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

#### NMHC IFB 2021-004

**BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME:** February 18, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

#### Rehabilitation and Expansion of the Tanapag Youth Center Building

Project package will be available on **January 19, 2021**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of fifty dollars (\$50.00) is required for the project package. Payment must be by cash, credit card, cashier's check or certified check made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented in order to obtain the project package.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held via video teleconferencing on January 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) by clicking on the "Procurement" menu tab. Bidders are encouraged to email the Procurement Officer of their intent to participate in the pre-bid conference via email at [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net) at least one day before the conference. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net) during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane  
Chairwoman  
NMHC Board of Directors



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### INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

#### NMHC IFB 2021-005

**BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME:** February 18, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

#### Ground Maintenance Services of NMHC's Properties in Saipan

Project package will be available on **January 19, 2021**, at the NMHC website at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) by clicking on the "Procurement" tab.


The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held via video teleconferencing on January 28, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) by clicking on the "Procurement" menu tab. Bidders are encouraged to email the Procurement Officer of their intent to participate in the pre-bid conference via email at [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net) at least one day before the conference. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

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/s/ Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane  
Chairwoman  
NMHC Board of Directors



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### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Board Meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance. In compliance with the CNMI COVID-19 guidelines, Face-mask must be worn, social distancing will be enforced, and not more than ten (10) people will be allowed in the conference room during the course of the meeting.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Adoption of Agenda
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. CDBG-DR TOURISM MARKETING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
- IV. CDBG-DR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
- V. CDBG-DR UPDATES
- VI. APPROVAL OF AMENDED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO ITEMS ABOVE
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane  
Chairperson of the Board

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"



# Seventh graders at DMS thrive at Project HOPE

Thanks to Project HOPE (Health Ocean & People Empowerment) of the Friends of the Marianas Trench, some students at Dandan Middle School are getting a valuable opportunity to learn about traditional culture, ocean science and conservation.

DMS teacher Eun Young Ahn thinks that Project HOPE “is the perfect program for our students to appreciate the beauty of our ocean and the resources it provides so they can understand why protecting it is important. I love the ocean and I love our islands. I needed our students to know more about the ocean and how we can protect it.”

Project HOPE is a no-cost ocean science program created by Friends of the Mariana Trench under a grant from

the Administration of Native Americans. Inspired by the desire to improve sixth grader’s ACT aspire test scores, Project HOPE is designed to use experiential learning to help CNMI students understand experimental results, inferences, models, and data.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 complications made student recruitment much more difficult. “With this pandemic, it was particularly challenging to determine if parents will allow their children to have any personal interaction with other people outside of their family,” Ahn recalled.

Then she thought to offer students extra credit for attending. “When Mr. Joe told me there were more than 10 students who pre-registered, I was so happy to hear that and excited for them,” she said,

referring to Joe Villacrusis, the project coordinator for Project HOPE.

“After a few sessions, my students have shared what

they have done and learned so far such as coral bleaching, how to keep our ocean healthy, picking up trash at the end of each session, and

learning how to properly swim. I was so happy to see our students in action the couple of times I visited,” Ahn said.



From left, Eun Young Ahn, Aries Wabol, Miumi Takahashi, Monique Mendiola, Alana Hayes, Zachary Camacho, Michael Deleon Guerrero, Reineer Anciado and Athena Wabol representing Dandan Middle School at Project HOPE's pilot run with 7th graders during fall 2020.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Project HOPE sessions are held on Austerity Mondays at the Guma Sakman. The fall session ran from October to December 2020. The spring 2021 session is scheduled for mid-late February and wrapping up in mid-late June depending on the Public School System’s calendar. To motivate PSS teachers to encourage their students’ participation, the Friends of the Mariana Trench are offering to help teaches with science classroom supplies.

“I hope other middle schools and their science teachers encourage their students to join this program and find out what Project HOPE is about and how they contribute to learning and increasing their knowledge in science, especially ocean related sciences.”

For more information about Project HOPE visit <https://www.friendsmarianatrench.org>. (PR)

## NMTI committee pushes e-records for school

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Record Committee of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute wants to improve the way it conducts business by not only having physical reports but electronic ones as well, to avoid not having access to those records.

In an interview with NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres, the trade school’s administration is having a hard time retrieving records because the people who do have access to them have been furloughed and there has been a limited number of employees who have volunteered to work prior to NMTI reopening last Jan. 4.

“It was really trying times, and they were trying to get all the information when nobody was here at NMTI except for me. . . . Very unfortunate that we were not as accessible as [the students] wanted us to be,” said McPhetres. “It’s very comprehensive funding an educational institution. It is not just like a department that they only look at

the day-to-day operation. This covers from budget to classes to all kinds of stuff so, it’s different management.”

NMTI Record Committee co-chair Tyrell Pauling said his main concern is the record-keeping procedures of the institution.

Pauling said that having electronic records will be extremely helpful when loading records and easier to locate

when they are needed. He recommended that they also have a shared server for the administration, which will be easily managed by NMTI.

NMTI board member Mario Valentino pointed out that it isn’t the employees’ fault that the NMTI administration couldn’t obtain records. “Please understand that the committee does not seek to blame anyone. However, broadly, there was a

sense that we were presenting an incomplete report, and it was important to state that it wasn’t late,” said Valentino.

NMTI officially issued furlough letters to the majority of their staff last April 17, 2020, due to their inability to sustain payroll payments as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

NMTI has a little over 20 employees.



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### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

| NMHC JVA No. | Positions:   | Salary:   |
|--------------|--|---|
| 2021-001     | CDBG-DR Procurement Officer (1-Position)                                 | UNGRADED<br>\$40,000.00 to \$45,000.00- per annum |
| 2021-002     | CDBG-DR Compliance Supervisor (1- Position)                              | UNGRADED<br>\$45,000.00 to \$50,000.00- per annum |
| 2021-003     | CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist (1-Position)                               | UNGRADED<br>\$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00- per annum |
| 2021-004     | CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist – <i>Rota Field Office</i> (1-Position)    | UNGRADED<br>\$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00- per annum |
| 2021-005     | CDBG-DR Loan Specialist (2-Positions)                                    | UNGRADED<br>\$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00- per annum |
| 2021-006     | CDBG-DR Loan Specialist – <i>Tinian Field Office</i> (1-Position)        | UNGRADED<br>\$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00- per annum |
| 2021-007     | CDBG-DR Loan Specialist – <i>Rota Field Office</i> (1-Position)          | UNGRADED<br>\$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00- per annum |
| 2021-008     | CDBG-DR Administrative Specialist (1-Position)                           | UNGRADED<br>\$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00- per annum |
| 2021-009     | CDBG-DR Construction Inspector (2-Position)                              | UNGRADED<br>\$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00- per annum |
| 2021-010     | CDBG-DR Construction Inspector – <i>Tinian Field Office</i> (1-Position) | UNGRADED<br>\$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00- per annum |
| 2021-011     | CDBG-DR Construction Inspector – <i>Rota Field Office</i> (1-Position)   | UNGRADED<br>\$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00- per annum |

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) and [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com).


Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net).

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.


It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net). NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS  
Corporate Director



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**



### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**JVA No. 21-011**

**Opening Date: January 11, 2020**  
**Closing Date: January 25, 2021**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>POSITION TITLE:</b><br/> <b>DEPARTMENT:</b><br/> <b>LOCATION:</b><br/> <b>ANNUAL SALARY:</b><br/> <b>CONTRACT:</b><br/> <b>POSITION(S):</b></p> | <p><b>Laboratory Technician</b><br/> <b>Water &amp; Wastewater Laboratory</b><br/> <b>Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA</b><br/> <b>\$20,826.00 to \$28,115.00 per annum, Non- Exempt</b><br/> <b>Contracted</b><br/> <b>One (1)</b></p> |
|---|---|

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Laboratory Manager or his/her designee.

**Duties:**

- Performs laboratory testing and analysis of water and wastewater samples in accordance with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.
- Collects field samples including well, safe drinking water, and wastewater samples; determines and gathers appropriate sample containers; determines route schedules; ensures validity of samples collected including sample holding time and temperature ranges.
- Reviews, determines, records and/or reports sample analyses results; maintains laboratory files, records and related documentation.
- Maintains and cleans laboratory equipment and supplies; washes glassware, bottles and other testing supplies; ensures testing area and equipment are prepared, in working order, and ready for use.
- Monitors supplies and makes requests for replenishment of stock as needed; may research and gather and report quotation and information related to supply needs.

**Minimum Requirements:**  
**Education:** High School diploma, GED or (AS) through the Adult Basic Education. Associate's Degree in physical science, chemistry, biology, or other related science is preferred.

**Knowledge of:** Mathematical concepts; Recordkeeping principles; Customer service principles; Safe work practices; Using computers, including sending business email and use of Excel and Word.

**Skills in:** Interpreting and applying written laboratory procedures, applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Making work assignments and monitoring work completion (based on assignment); Performing laboratory sampling and testing of water and wastewater; Analyzing and reporting testing results; Collecting field samples and validating samples for testing; Maintaining laboratory records and files; Cleaning and maintaining laboratory equipment and supplies; Monitoring supplies and initiating requests to replenish stock; Researching and gathering information regarding supply purchase needs; Providing attention to detail; Adhering to safe work procedures; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Some positions may require the following specialized licenses and certifications: Water/Wastewater Laboratory staff.

**• Licensing:**  
 o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: [employment.applications@cucgov.org](mailto:employment.applications@cucgov.org)

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
 Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131  
 CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

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### EDITORIAL

## Due process still matters, even for rioters who stormed the Capitol

**F**ailure to wear masks can do more than spread COVID-19, as some of the intruders who stormed the U.S. Capitol last week are finding. It also reveals faces to security cameras, government investigators and online private eyes, who've used those bare visages and other telling clues to identify many of the miscreants. As a result, not only have many of them been hit with criminal charges, but several were summarily fired from their jobs.

As a group, the mob inside the Capitol certainly was breaking the law in the most serious of ways, attempting to stop the workings of government and possibly to physically attack members of Congress. But no one has been convicted. It puts our society in a tricky position: We need to repudiate and take strong though appropriate steps against those who act violently toward our government. At the same time, we have always cherished the words "innocent until proven guilty."

Beyond that, some employers have reportedly demanded resignations from employees who were outside the Capitol, rallying, marching, sometimes saying abhorrent things and parroting President Trump's baseless nonsense about stolen elections. Among them was a Chapman University professor, John Eastman, who was one of the speakers at the rally. More than 160 Chapman faculty members signed a letter calling for the university to end Eastman's teaching duties and take away his endowed professorship. The university refused, citing the rules on academic freedom and faculty discipline that forbid such a step. Nonetheless, Eastman resigned under pressure Wednesday as the anger against him mounted.

The firings have even struck those who protested the protesters. An employee at GitHub reportedly was fired after using a company Slack channel to refer to the rioters as Nazis. Yes, personal use of company resources is not allowed, but it's unlikely that this employee was the first ever to do so there.

In tightly strung times when people are bound to do things that others find highly objectionable—and to be caught on social media or someone's cellphone doing it—we're left with complicated questions about when they deserve to lose their livelihoods.

It's seldom a legal issue. In most states, private employers retain broad power to fire an employee for pretty much any reason, as long as they don't discriminate against a protected group, punish some employees more than others for the same actions or violate an employment contract. California is among the very few states that prohibit companies from taking action against employees for political speech or activities.

But just because private companies can do something doesn't necessarily mean they should. There might be photos of people in the Capitol, but were they among those

See CAPITOL on Next Page



## Will the world still look to America as a champion of democracy?

**W**hat's going on over there?" The question from a former NATO colleague in Europe was among the many texts and WhatsApp messages that lit up my phone Jan. 6 as I watched on live television the astonishing and frightening events unfolding at the U.S. Capitol.

The level of incredulity and concern, followed by revulsion and anger, expressed by my friends and former colleagues overseas underscores the damage that was being done to our standing abroad by a rioting mob bent on overturning an election result they did not like.

The world's oldest and most successful democracy, which for more than two centuries had stood as an example to so many around the globe, was under attack. From within. And the attack was led by a sitting president who refused to accept that most sacred of all democratic principles: that the people, through elections, get to decide who governs.

In the end, democracy prevailed. On Wednesday, exactly two weeks after the failed insurrection, Joseph R. Biden Jr. will be inaugurated the next president of the United States.

And yet, while the peaceful transfer of power will no doubt come as a relief to many, the events of Jan. 6 have left a deep scar on American democracy and on our image abroad—one that won't be healed quickly or easily. Restoring faith in democracy and the rule of law, both at home and abroad, will be one of the most important tasks of the new president and his administration.

Biden has made the return to a foreign policy based on core American values—including support for democracy, human rights and the rule of law—a top priority. But after the events of last week, it will take more than reversing Trump's damaging executive orders on immigration, standing by our democratic friends and allies and standing up to authoritarians or even convening a Summit for Democracy "to renew the spirit and shared purpose of the nations of the free world."

Biden has proposed taking each of these steps, and they are all important. But they won't mean much if we don't also address the deep scars in our own democracy. That starts by holding to account those who challenged the outcome of the elections.

The FBI and Justice Department have set up a sedition and conspiracy task force to help identify, charge, arrest and bring to justice those who stormed the Capitol in an effort to deny the congressional certification of the presidential election. This large-scale investigation is critical to restoring the rule of law.

But so, too, is holding to account those who instigated the mob in the first place. That starts with President Donald Trump, whose refusal to acknowledge he had lost the election provided the basis for everything that followed. Conceding defeat isn't

By IVO DAALDER

Chicago Tribune



*Ivo Daalder is the president of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a former U.S. ambassador to NATO.*

written in law, but it is foundational in a democracy. Inciting insurrection is forbidden by law, and when a president does that, impeachment is the proper remedy.

There are others who followed Trump's lead in challenging the results of the elections, including the many members of Congress who voted against certifying the vote of key states. Where in so doing laws were broken, justice must be served. But otherwise, it will be up to the voters to decide whether these members should continue to represent them.

While the immediate threat to our democracy appears to have been averted and the rule of law likely will be reestablished in this instance, restoring faith in our democracy will require addressing some of the deeper flaws in our system.

One is the Electoral College. Although Biden received over 7 million more votes than Trump, a shift in just 44,000 votes in three states would have produced a tie in the Electoral College. In that case, the House likely would have handed the election to Trump—and for the third time in six elections, the loser of the popular vote would have become president.

This violates a core principle of democracy. Yet, getting rid of the Electoral College will require a constitutional amendment, a distant prospect in our divided nation.

But there are other remedies that Congress can enact to strengthen democracy. These include making voting registration automatic and ensuring voting itself is easier, by extending early voting, simplifying absentee and mail voting, and opening additional sites for people to cast their ballot in person. Open primaries and independent redistricting commissions could help make elections more competitive. Increasing financial transparency and reducing money in politics would also help increase the power of individual voters.

Free and fair elections, and abiding by their results, are the bedrock of democracy. That is what America has championed for decades abroad, and what many around the world have aspired to themselves. When American democracy falters, as it nearly did last week, the impact is felt all around the world. And so will the collective effort to restore democracy that must now begin.



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## Twitter deranged our politics

**D**onald Trump was the president of Twitter. What radio was to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and TV was to Ronald Reagan, communicating 280 characters at a time on a social media platform that is a watchword for hyperactive inanity was to President Trump.

It is symbolically appropriate that the effective end of his power after the siege of the U.S. Capitol has coincided with the suspension of his Twitter account.

He may well get impeached a second time, but for now, the punishment that really stings is Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey deciding after sitting down with his woke colleagues that Trump must pay the ultimate price for his post-election misinformation and agitation.

This judgment is as arbitrary as Dorsey's worst critics would expect, and it will be impossible for Twitter to enforce anything resembling a consistent line following its Trump suspension (the platform didn't seem particularly exercised by all of the voices valorizing last summer's riots as an "uprising").

But there's no doubting Dorsey's power. He has rendered the president of the United States practically mute.

Trump remains in the Oval Office and, in theory, commands the biggest megaphone on the planet. He could still make statements, hold press conferences, sit down for interviews or meet with his cabinet. In his reduced and isolated state, though, none of these options are as appealing as letting his thumbs do his work for him, one outlandish tweet at a time.

Now that this avenue is foreclosed to him, he's less of a pres-

ence, even as the political world continues to be obsessed with him (in particular, the manner of his exit from office).

It's not exactly a slow news environment. Yet, without Trump's tweets stirring the pot at all times of the day, the nation's political debate feels a little less fevered.

Twitter is Exhibit A for Marshall McLuhan's axiom that the medium is the message. There is plenty of worthy news coverage and real-time commentary on Twitter. But that's not where the emotional center of gravity is, as one would expect of a platform built for instantaneous, unfiltered reactions.

It's this aspect of Twitter that perfectly matched the president's proclivities. He found a natural home in an environment that encourages, and often rewards, snap judgements, insults, soon-to-be-forgotten pronouncements, grotesque oversimplifications and the spread of false or dubious information.

Trump wasn't careful about what he said anywhere, but he reserved his most lurid and poisonous communications for Twitter. It was the place easiest for him to, for instance, absurdly accuse Morning Joe host Joe Scarborough of murder or insult the looks of his alleged paramour Stormy Daniels.

It was a symptom of his erratic, easily distracted, and thoughtless governing style that he used Twitter as a tool of his administration. He warned foreign leaders, fired officials and made pronouncements on legislation on Twitter, often leaving allies and his own government baffled by what was supposed the line between "just a tweet" and an official order by the president of the United States.

By **RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.



*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

Twitter was an especially ready forum for airing conspiracy theories. Asked prior to the election about his giving credence to the lunatic idea that Navy SEAL Team 6 had been assassinated, Trump shrugged and said it was only a retweet. In the wake of his election defeat, his Twitter feed became a nonstop source of bad information dredged up from the worst corners of the internet.

If Trump was the foremost offender, Twitter hasn't done us any favors in this period of our national life. It has fed moral panics and enabled cancellation mobs. It has exposed journalists who once made a pretense of objectivity as rank partisans. It has enticed once serious people into crowd-pleasing clownishness. It has made politicians dumber and cruder. It has distorted political reality for people across the spectrum.

It, in short, has helped derange our politics, with the former Tweeter-in-Chief leading the way.

## Yes, they're actually blaming Black people for the violent insurrection by the pro-Trump mob

**I**f you're a fan of "The Lord of the Rings" movies, you know one of the best battle scenes in the final part of the trilogy. Our protagonist, Aragorn, the rightful king of Gondor, recruits the Army of the Dead and with their help storms the battlefield and goes on to defeat the evil forces of Sauron. Later, Aragorn takes his place as ruler and is loved by all. There's a catered party with a band and I think a photo booth near the restrooms.

The Twitter account for the Arizona Republican Party posted a shot from that scene. It featured our hero prominently in the foreground with Sauron's bad guys approaching in the distance—but with a twist. They added the words "For Donald." That was Jan 2. On Dec. 28, there's a portrait of Donald Trump holding an

American flag in one hand and drawing a gun out of his holster with the other.

And on Jan. 11, the account featured a video clip of Trump speaking at the Jan. 6 rally, with the words—and I kid you not—THE PRESIDENT OF PEACE. Another tweet that day claims "tens of thousands marched peacefully to the Capitol to make their voices heard" but "several dozen, including members of Antifa, made the reprehensible decision to riot, criminally trespass, and commit violence." It concludes with, "Punish the perps, stop gaslighting the innocents."

It reminded me of the time O.J. Simpson said he was going to go out and find the real killers.

What the nation saw on Wednesday in the House impeachment debate was the Arizona Republican Party Twitter feed brought to life. An absolutely absurd amalgamation of lies, misdirection and false equivalencies all designed to minimize the role Trump and his followers played in the attack on the Capitol that left five people dead, including a police officer.

The Capitol is supposed to be one of the most secure buildings in the most militarized country in the world, and it fell to a white supremacist mob that had been groomed for such an occasion for years.

Not days.

Not weeks or months.

Years.

And to add insult to injury, a number of white Republican members of the House—in denouncing the violence but declining to vote for impeachment—tried to blame Black people for what occurred as if challenging the votes from predominantly Black districts wasn't enough.

"If we prosecuted BLM (Black Lives Matter) and antifa rioters across the country with the same determination these last six months, this incident may not have happened at all," said Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif.

Rep. Nancy Mace, R-S.C., went as far as to quote Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before she went on to denounce "violence on both sides of the aisle" and lump together damage caused by rioters during the protests for criminal justice reform last summer with the violent insurrection.

The most offensive statements were made by Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., the Confederate statue defender who brought Charles Johnson, a white nationalist/Holocaust denier, to the 2018 State of the Union address. He said he opposed political violence from all sides, "but make no mistake, the left in America has incited far more political violence than the right. For months, our cities

By **LZ GRANDERSON**

Los Angeles Times



*LZ Granderson is sports and culture columnist for the Los Angeles Times.*

burned, police stations burned, our businesses shattered."

Rep. Pat Fallon, R-Texas, insinuated the riots and looting that happened in 2020 were worse than the insurrection, adding that "if there's any silver lining in this dark cloud, it's that our friends across the aisle have come to realize that riots are bad."

A parade of presumably intelligent elected officials tried to minimize a coordinated terrorist attack—encouraged by the president and other elected officials—with the intent to stop the most essential aspect of our democracy, the peaceful transfer of power. To distract from this assault, Fallon and others tried to equate a looted Footlocker with an attack that forced members of Congress to run for their lives, pointing fingers at protesters who were moved to take to the streets by police brutality and by the video of a police officer, with his hands in his pockets, casually killing George Floyd in broad daylight.

Were the instances of rioting and looting last summer wrong? Absolutely. And families of victims, left-leaning public figures and elected officials have denounced those actions loudly, contrary to the lies heard on the House floor.

President-elect Joe Biden condemned the violence. Vice President-elect Kamala Harris condemned it. Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms poured out her heart at a news conference, saying, "This is not a protest. This is not in the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. This is chaos. A protest has purpose. When Dr. King was assassinated, we didn't do this to our city." She pointed out the mom and pop shops hurt by the violence, adding, "If you care about this city then go home."

That was in May.

The "both sides" garbage heard Wednesday is just that—garbage. It's offensive and dangerous and a reminder that some people don't care about right or wrong, even at a moment of national crisis. They just want to win. The disappointing thing about all of this is that, despite the attack on our democratic system, these Republican politicians still don't understand that when it comes to games like the one they played on Wednesday, no one wins.

### CAPITOL

From Page 8

causing damage or threatening violence? If they weren't and are never charged, are their actions nevertheless horrifying enough to merit loss of job? Did they break through barriers rather than blindly following others who did? Are they ever convicted of anything?






Not that the answers to these have to be yes before a company has cause to act. If an employee was in the Capitol with his company badge visible or was filmed causing mayhem, it doesn't take a court of law to know that a line was crossed. If an employee didn't know darn well that you don't push through lines of law enforcement officers in order to pour into a building that's been closed to the public, that's not exoneration.

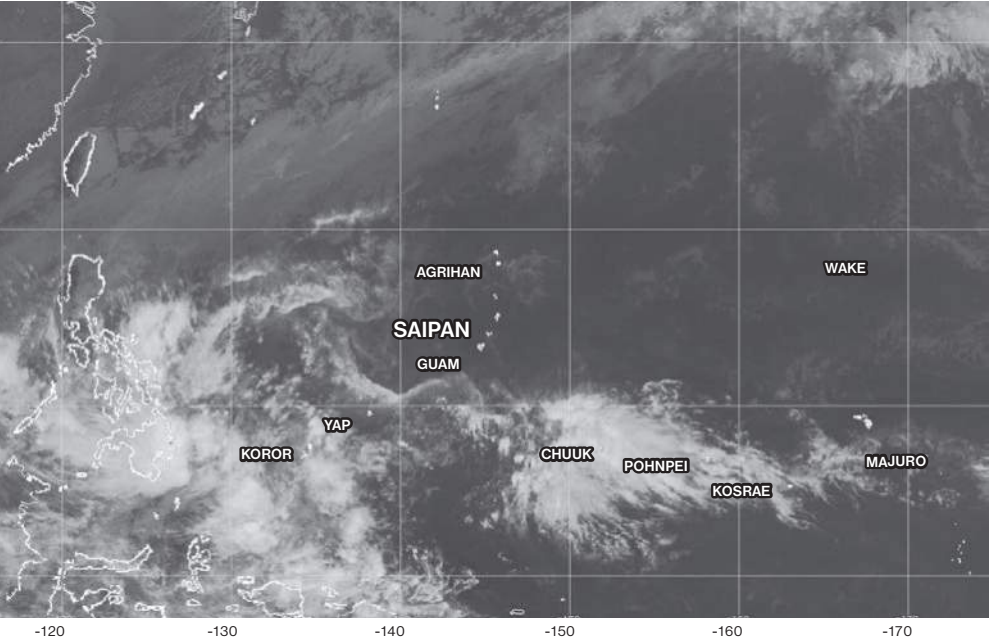
But we add to, rather than soften, the damage done to our system of laws if due process is completely ignored. Employees should at least have the chance to be interviewed about their actions and offer a response. Extremist groups react without waiting for the facts or listening to others. It only erodes society's notions of fairness if companies emulate them.

And those who remained outside and did not break the law should keep their jobs—yes, even if the words they spoke were toxic and even if a company is pressured by a boycott—unless they broke some other company rule, such as claiming a sick day in order to protest while on the payroll. That should apply whether the employee is a professor or a mail clerk. All states should join California in protecting employees' right to political speech outside the workplace as long as their actions don't directly affect their ability to do their jobs. Our wallets shouldn't rule our freedom of expression.



# The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN  |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |
|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|
| TODAY   |     | WEDNESDAY   |     | THURSDAY  |     | FRIDAY  |     | SATURDAY  |     |
|  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |
| Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.               |     | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Breezy Thursday.                            |     | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Breezy Thursday.                            |     | Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  |     | Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  |     |
| 86°   | 77° | 86°   | 77° | 86°   | 77° | 87°   | 77° | 87°   | 77° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE   |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |



PICTURE TIME: 8:29 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180. Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and only a few showers within the Marianas waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet which are composed mainly of east trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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| MICRONESIA    |               |           | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 77° |        |
| Palau         | Thunderstorms | 85° / 79° |        |
| Yap           | Thunderstorms | 82° / 77° |        |
| Chuuk         | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 79° |        |
| Pohnpei       | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° |        |
| Kosrae        | Thunderstorms | 83° / 79° |        |
| Majuro        | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 81° |        |

| DAY       | SUNRISE | SUNSET  |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today     | 6:47 AM | 6:08 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:47 AM | 6:08 PM |
| Thursday  | 6:47 AM | 6:09 PM |
| Friday    | 6:47 AM | 6:10 PM |
| Saturday  | 6:47 AM | 6:10 PM |

| DAY       | MOONRISE | MOONSET  | MOONRISE |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today     | 11:04 AM | 11:25 PM | -        |
| Wednesday | 11:39 AM | -        | -        |
| Thursday  | -        | 12:11 AM | 12:15 PM |
| Friday    | -        | 12:58 AM | 12:51 PM |
| Saturday  | -        | 1:46 AM  | 1:30 PM  |

| AROUND THE GLOBE |                    |           | ▲ ▼ °F |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------|
| Auckland         | Partly Cloudy/Wind | 76° / 63° |        |
| Beijing          | Cloudy             | 29° / 17° |        |
| Hong Kong        | Mostly Sunny       | 63° / 55° |        |
| Honolulu         | Showers            | 75° / 70° |        |
| London           | Light Rain/Wind    | 53° / 50° |        |
| Los Angeles      | Partly Cloudy      | 68° / 52° |        |
| Manila           | Showers            | 83° / 76° |        |
| Melbourne        | Mostly Sunny       | 64° / 50° |        |
| Miami            | Showers            | 70° / 59° |        |
| New York         | Mostly Sunny       | 44° / 32° |        |
| Osaka            | Mostly Cloudy      | 40° / 32° |        |
| Paris            | Light Rain         | 48° / 43° |        |
| Busan            | Sunny              | 40° / 29° |        |
| Rome             | Partly Cloudy      | 54° / 41° |        |
| Salem            | Mostly Sunny       | 62° / 42° |        |
| San Francisco    | Sunny/Wind         | 64° / 47° |        |
| Seoul            | Sunny              | 28° / 12° |        |
| Tokyo            | Sunny              | 46° / 31° |        |
| Washington, DC   | Mostly Sunny       | 50° / 30° |        |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY |           |      | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| 5:42 AM                    | Low Tide  | 0.13 |      |
| 12:34 PM                   | High Tide | 1.59 |      |
| 7:07 PM                    | Low Tide  | 0.68 |      |
| 11:58 PM                   | High Tide | 1.16 |      |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

| DEPARTURES          |        |        |            | ARRIVALS            |         |          |               |
|---------------------|--------|--------|------------|---------------------|---------|----------|---------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)   |        |        |            | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN   |         |          |               |
| UA117               | 6:55am | 7:35am | 1, 4, 6    | UA174               | 5:10am  | 5:51am   | 1, 4, 6       |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) |        |        |            | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN |         |          |               |
| UA117/183           | 6:55am | 9:50pm | 1 via Guam | UA184/174           | 10:40pm | 5:51am+1 | 3, 5 via Guam |
| GUAM-MANILA (MNL)   |        |        |            | MANILA (MNL)-GUAM   |         |          |               |
| UA183               | 8:00pm | 9:50pm | 1, 3, 5    | UA184               | 10:40pm | 4:30am+1 | 1, 3, 5       |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

| SAIPAN TO ROTA   |           |         |                            | 1202             | 8:00      | 8:15    | Daily                   |
|------------------|-----------|---------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY                  | 1203             | 9:00      | 9:15    | Daily                   |
| 1301             | 8:30AM    | 9:00AM  | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri     | 1204             | 10:00     | 10:15   | Daily                   |
| 1302             | 11:00AM   | 11:30AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat | 1205             | 11:00     | 11:15   | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1303             | 3:30PM    | 4:00PM  | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun | 1206             | 12:00     | 12:15   | Temporarily Unavailable |
| ROTA TO SAIPAN   |           |         |                            | 1207             | 13:00     | 13:15   | Temporarily Unavailable |
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY                  | 1208             | 14:00     | 14:15   | Daily                   |
| 3101             | 9:30AM    | 10:00AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri     | 1209             | 15:00     | 15:15   | Daily                   |
| 3102             | 12:00AM   | 12:30AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat | 1210             | 16:00     | 16:15   | Daily                   |
| 3103             | 4:30PM    | 5:00PM  | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun | 1211             | 17:00     | 17:15   | Daily                   |
| ROTA TO GUAM     |           |         |                            | 1212             | 17:00     | 17:15   | Temporarily Unavailable |
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY                  | TINIAN TO SAIPAN |           |         |                         |
| 3401             | 12:15     | 12:45   | Temporarily Unavailable    | FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY               |
| GUAM TO ROTA     |           |         |                            | 2101             | 7:30      | 7:45    | Temporarily Unavailable |
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY                  | 2102             | 8:30      | 8:45    | Daily                   |
| 4301             | 13:00     | 13:30   | Temporarily Unavailable    | 2103             | 9:30      | 9:45    | Daily                   |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN |           |         |                            | 2104             | 10:30     | 10:45   | Daily                   |
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY                  | 2105             | 11:30     | 11:45   | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1201             | 7:00      | 7:15    | Temporarily Unavailable    | 2106             | 12:30     | 12:45   | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1202             | 8:00      | 8:15    | Temporarily Unavailable    | 2107             | 13:30     | 13:45   | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1203             | 9:00      | 9:15    | Temporarily Unavailable    | 2108             | 14:30     | 14:45   | Daily                   |
| 1204             | 10:00     | 10:15   | Temporarily Unavailable    | 2109             | 15:30     | 15:45   | Daily                   |
| 1205             | 11:00     | 11:15   | Temporarily Unavailable    | 2110             | 16:30     | 16:45   | Daily                   |
| 1206             | 12:00     | 12:15   | Temporarily Unavailable    | 2111             | 17:30     | 17:45   | Daily                   |
| 1207             | 13:00     | 13:15   | Temporarily Unavailable    | 2112             | 18:30     | 18:45   | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1208             | 14:00     | 14:15   | Temporarily Unavailable    |                  |           |         |                         |
| 1209             | 15:00     | 15:15   | Temporarily Unavailable    |                  |           |         |                         |
| 1210             | 16:00     | 16:15   | Temporarily Unavailable    |                  |           |         |                         |
| 1211             | 17:00     | 17:15   | Temporarily Unavailable    |                  |           |         |                         |
| 1212             | 18:00     | 18:15   | Temporarily Unavailable    |                  |           |         |                         |



# Business

By BEA CABRERA

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CORRESPONDENT

## HANDMADE CARDS BY JILL ARENOVSKI:

# 'Small idea with a big impact'

These days, staying connected with family and friends is awesome with technology but there is still something warm and intimate about sending thoughts and feelings through greeting cards. Twenty-five years ago, Jill Arenovski put into work how she feels and made her own greeting cards to express herself to family and friends in the mainland.

"I first started making cards about 25 years ago when I had my first daughter. We lived in Guam when I first moved to the Marianas and I was buying lots of cards to send home to my family. It was the first time I had lived so far away from everyone I knew and one day, I went into a store called China Arts with a friend, saw a cute rubber stamp, bought it, and have stamped ever since," she said.

"A handmade greeting card is even more special now that it was 25 years ago. Now, we send texts and messages and photos electronically, mostly that is instant and gratifying. But when you receive a handmade card in the mail, you

know that someone has taken their time to create for you. I send lots of cards and yet I'm still surprised and honored when I hear that the recipient has saved them because the cards mean so much," she added.

Instead of going to the bookstore or grocery and spend time looking for the right card with the perfect message, making or stamping your own card is limitless. "You can use nearly any design and make a beautiful card for any occasion. For a long time, it was difficult for me to make sympathy cards because they are always related to sadness but then I realized that the note inside is often so important and uplifting to the recipient in their time of need, and now I quite enjoy making cards to send those magical messages," Arenovski said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Make a card or buy a handmade card that is warm and intimate.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Handmade cards by Jill Arenovski are available at all Shell gas stations on Saipan.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Starbucks temporarily shuts NYC stores over protest fears

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Starbucks closed some New York City stores on Sunday "out of an abundance of caution" as cities across the U.S. braced for protests and potential unrest ahead of President-Elect Joe Biden's inauguration. Starbucks spokesperson Jessica Conradson said the Manhattan stores were expected to reopen Monday. The Seattle-based company said it went ahead with the temporary closures because many people working in the stores live outside of Manhattan and might've gotten stuck from getting home if protests were to break out and disrupt transit service. Some darkened stores had signs noting their temporary closure. There were no major protests in New York City on Sunday. Public officials have said there are no specific, credible threats to the city stemming from the election or the violence Jan. 6 at the U.S. Capitol. The NYPD said it has increased security around certain government locations in the city as a precaution. At the state capitol in Albany, it was a quiet day despite fears stoked by warnings of an armed protest, with a smattering of counter-protesters outnumbering Trump supporters.

#### Nestlé recalls 762,000 lbs of pepperoni Hot Pockets

**MOUNT STERLING, Ky. (AP)**—Nestlé Prepared Foods is recalling more than 762,000 pounds of pepperoni Hot Pockets, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service said. The frozen stuffed sandwiches—shipped to retail stores nationwide—are being recalled because they "may be contaminated with extraneous materials, specifically pieces of glass and hard plastic," the USDA said Friday. The problem was discovered when the company received four consumer complaints of extraneous material in pepperoni Hot Pockets, the department said. The company has received one report of a "minor oral injury" associated with consumption of the product, the USDA said. The recall is for 54-ounce packages containing 12 "Nestlé Hot Pockets Brand Sandwiches: Premium Pepperoni made with pork, chicken and beef pizza garlic butter crust." Affected boxes have a "Best before Feb 2022" date and lot codes of 0318544624, 0319544614, 0320544614 and 0321544614, the department said. The boxes also have the establishment number "EST. 7721A" inside the USDA mark of inspection. "Consumers who have purchased this product are urged not to consume it," the USDA said. "This product should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase."

"Most times I stamp a message inside each card but I also leave a good amount of them blank inside so that the sender can handwrite any message. I still hang onto the letters and cards from my dad and grandmother and cherish seeing their handwriting," she added.

Arenovski shares this passion of making and stamping personalized cards with others. "My Facebook page is 'SaipanStamper' and I have a VIP group. Now that I have my cookie business called 'Saipan Snaps,' I'm combining both ventures by including a hand-

made thank you card with each mail order purchase and using my love of paper crafting to offer custom cookie giveaway items for parties, weddings, and other events," she said.

"I don't know where the idea originated but last summer, a lot of stampers sent Sunshine Boxes to raise the spirits of those they love. Basically, we took a box, decorated it in yellow, and sent all yellow items (sunshine!) through the postal service. We added things like Peanut M&Ms, yellow masks, lemon hand cream, and all sorts of silly stuff like a rubber

ducky. These boxes are so fun to make and send, and these adorable packages are even more fun for the recipient!" she added.

Arenovski also sells handmade or stamped cards that is yours for the picking. The design is uncommercial and provides a personalized feel. "Most times I stamp a message inside each card but I also leave a good amount of them blank inside so that the sender can handwrite any message... A card can complete your package, sending a message of hope or support, of love or

sympathy, or of cheer and happiness. Especially during this pandemic, we miss actually spending time with others and a handwritten card can bring others closer in our hearts.

"I sell my handcrafted greeting cards at the Saipan Shell gasoline stations in Susupe, Dandan, Shell Highway, San Roque, and Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico station has the largest card display with the best selection, and the locations are refilled monthly with new designs and seasonal cards," she added.

## China economy grows in 2020 as rebound from virus gains

**BEIJING (AP)**—China eked out 2.3% economic growth in 2020, likely becoming the only major economy to expand as shops and factories reopened relatively early from a shutdown to fight the coronavirus while the United States, Japan and Europe struggled with disease flare-ups.

Growth in the three months ending in December rose to 6.5% over a year earlier, up from the previous quarter's 4.9% and stronger than many forecasters expected, official data showed Monday.

In early 2020, activity contracted by 6.8% in the first quarter as the ruling Communist Party took the then-unprecedented step of shutting down most of its economy to fight the virus. The following quarter, China became the first major country to grow again with a 3.2% expansion after the party declared victory over the virus in March and allowed factories, shops and

offices to reopen.

Exports were boosted by demand for Chinese-made masks and other medical goods.

The growing momentum "reflected improving private consumption expenditure as well as buoyant net exports," said Rajiv Biswas of IHS Markit in a report. He said China is likely to be the only major economy to grow in 2020 while developed countries and most major emerging markets were in recession.

The economy "recovered steadily" and "living standards were ensured forcefully," the National Bureau of Statistics said in a statement. It said the ruling party's development goals were "accomplished better than expectation" but gave no details.

2020 was China's weakest growth in decades and below 1990's 3.9% following the crackdown on the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy movement, which led to China's in-

ternational isolation.

Despite growth for the year, "it is too early to conclude that this is a full recovery," Iris Pang of ING said in a report. "External demand has not yet fully recovered. This is a big hurdle."

Exporters and high-tech manufacturers face uncertainty about how President-elect Joseph Biden will handle conflicts with Beijing over trade, technology and security. His predecessor, Donald Trump, hurt exporters by hiking tariffs on Chinese goods and manufacturers including telecom equipment giant Huawei and imposing curbs on access to U.S. components and technology.

"We expect the newly elected U.S. government will continue most of the current policies on China, at least for the first quarter," Pang said.

The International Monetary Fund and private sector forecasters expect economic growth to rise further this year

to above 8%.

Exports rose 3.6% last year despite the tariff war with Washington. Exporters took market share from foreign competitors that still faced anti-virus restrictions.

Retail spending contracted by 3.9% over 2019 but gained 4.6% in December over a year earlier as demand revived. Consumer spending recovered to above the previous year's levels in the quarter ending in September.

Online sales of consumer goods rose 14.8% as millions of families who were ordered to stay home shifted to buying groceries and clothing online.

Factory output rose 2.8% over 2019. Activity accelerated toward the end of the year. Production rose 7.3 in December.

China has re-imposed travel controls in some areas after a spate of cases this month but most of the country is unaffected.



# Nation

## Heavily fortified statehouses around US see small protests

Small groups of right-wing protesters—some of them carrying rifles—gathered outside heavily fortified statehouses around the country Sunday, outnumbered by National Guard troops and police brought in to prevent a repeat of the violence that erupted at the U.S. Capitol. As darkness fell, there were no reports of any clashes.

Security was stepped up in recent days after the FBI warned of the potential for armed protests in Washington and at all 50 state capitol buildings ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration on Wednesday.

Crowds of only a dozen or two demonstrated at some boarded-up, cordoned-off statehouses, while the streets in many other capital cities remained empty. Some protesters said they were there to back President Donald Trump. Others said they had instead come to voice their support for gun rights or decry government overreach.

"I don't trust the results of the election," said Michigan protester Martin Szelag, a 67-year-old semi-retired window salesman from Dearborn Heights. He wore a sign around his neck that read, in part, "We will support Joe Biden as our President if you can convince us he won legally. Show us the proof! Then the healing can begin."

As the day wore on with no bloodshed around the U.S., a sense of relief spread among officials, though they were not ready to let their guard down.

The heavy law enforcement presence may have kept turnout down. In the past few days, some extremists had warned others against falling into what they called a law enforcement trap.

Washington State Patrol spokesman Chris Loftis said he hoped the apparently peaceful day reflected some soul-searching among Americans.

"I would love to say that it's because we've all taken a sober look in the mirror and have decided that we are a more unified people than cer-



Martin Szelag stands outside the state capitol in Lansing, Mich., Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021.

AP

tain moments in time would indicate," he said.

The security measures were intended to safeguard seats of government from the type of violence that broke out at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, when far-right Trump supporters galvanized by his false claims that the election had been stolen from him overran the police and bashed their way into the building while Congress was certifying the Electoral College vote.

The attack left a Capitol police officer and four others dead. More than 125 people have been arrested over the insurrection.

Dozens of courts, election officials and Trump's own attorney general have all said there was no evidence of widespread fraud in the presidential race.

On Sunday, some statehouses were surrounded by new security fences, their windows were boarded up, and extra officers were on patrol. Legislatures generally were not in session over the weekend.

Tall fences also surrounded the U.S. Capitol. The National

Mall was closed to the public, and the mayor of Washington asked people not to visit. Some 25,000 National Guard troops from around the country are expected to arrive in the city in the coming days.

The roughly 20 protesters who showed up at Michigan's Capitol, including some who were armed, were significantly outnumbered by law enforcement officers and members of the media. Tensions have been running high in the state since authorities foiled a plot to kidnap Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer last year.

At the Ohio Statehouse, about two dozen people, including several carrying long guns, protested outside under the watchful eyes of state troopers before dispersing as it began to snow.

Kathy Sherman, who was wearing a visor with "Trump" printed on it, said she supports the president but distanced herself from the mob that breached the U.S. Capitol.

"I'm here to support the right to voice a political view or opinion without fear of censorship, harassment or

the threat of losing my job or being physically assaulted," she said.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, a Republican, said he was pleased with the outcome but stressed that authorities "continue to have concerns for potential violence in the coming days, which is why I intend to maintain security levels at the Statehouse as we approach the presidential inauguration."

Utah's new governor, Republican Spencer Cox, shared photos on his Twitter account showing him with what appeared to be hundreds of National Guard troops and law enforcement officers standing behind him, all wearing masks. Cox called the quiet protests a best-case scenario and said many "agitating groups" had canceled their plans for the day.

At Oregon's Capitol, fewer than a dozen men wearing military-style outfits, black ski masks and helmets stood nearby with semiautomatic weapons slung across their bodies. Some had upside-down American flags and signs reading such things as

"Disarm the government."

At the Texas Capitol, Ben Hawk walked with about a dozen demonstrators up to the locked gates carrying a bullhorn and an AR-15 rifle hanging at the side of his camouflage pants. He condemned the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and said he did not support Trump.

"All we came down here to do today was to discuss, gather, network and hang out. And it got blown and twisted completely out of proportion," Hawk said.

At Nevada's Capitol, where demonstrators supporting Trump have flocked most weekends in recent months, all was quiet except for a lone protester with a sign.

"Trump Lost. Be Adults. Go Home," it read.

More than a third of governors had called out the National Guard to help protect their capitols and assist local law enforcement. Several governors declared states of emergency, and others closed their capitols to the public until after Biden's inauguration. (AP)

### Twitter suspends US congresswoman over election fraud claims

Twitter on Sunday temporarily suspended the account of Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, the Republican U.S. Congresswoman from Georgia who has expressed racist views and support for QAnon conspiracy theories online.

Greene's account was suspended "without explanation," she said in a statement, while also condemning big tech companies for "silencing" conservative views.

The 46-year-old businesswoman and political newcomer was elected to represent Georgia's 14th District in November. She's gained large followings on social media in part by posting incendiary videos and comments and has also embraced QAnon, a far-right U.S. conspiracy theory centered around the debunked belief that President Donald Trump is waging a secret campaign against enemies in the "deep state" and a child sex trafficking ring they say is linked to Democrats.

Before noon Sunday, Greene posted a clip from an interview with a local news outlet in which she condemned Georgia election officials and expressed support for debunked theories claiming that voting machines, absentee ballots and other issues led to widespread fraud in the state during the presidential election.

Twitter responded to the tweet, and others, with a message that called the election fraud claim "disputed," and saying it posed "a risk of violence."

A statement from Greene's team on Sunday included screenshots from Twitter which appeared to show the company informing the congresswoman she had violated its rules and would be prohibited from interacting with content on the site for 12 hours.

Greene urged Congress to "act to protect free speech" in her statement.

The action comes a little more than a week after Twitter banned Trump from the platform, citing "the risk of further incitement of violence" following the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol this month.

As of Jan. 12, Twitter had also suspended more than 70,000 accounts associated with QAnon as it attempted to rein in harmful activity ahead of the presidential inauguration. (AP)

## Tribute to King, rebuke of demagogues in Warnock sermon

ATLANTA (AP)—A day before the nation's annual holiday celebrating life of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Sen.-elect Raphael Warnock of Georgia returned to the pulpit at the church that was King's spiritual home, calling for the nation to adhere to "God's vision of equity."

Warnock's wide-ranging holiday message included a

tribute to King and a remembrance of his last days organizing an anti-poverty crusade before he was gunned down in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968.

"The tragedy is that the minimum wage had more purchasing power in 1968 than the minimum wage does in 2021," he said at one point.

Warnock decried the pain and death of the COVID-19

pandemic. And he called the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump, "an unthinkable attack on the very house of the people by those who are driven by the worst impulses, stirred up by demagogues."

Election victories over incumbent Republicans by Democrats Jon Ossoff and Warnock in Georgia ensured a

50-50 Senate split, positioning Vice President-elect Kamala Harris as the tie-breaking vote for Democratic control. But Ossoff and Warnock cannot join the chamber until Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger certifies the final vote tally. Raffensperger, a Republican, has said he could act as soon as Tuesday.

Warnock didn't mention the

outgoing president by name in his sermon but included clear criticisms of Trump as he named "crooked places" that he said God seeks to make straight. "You don't like the facts? Just create some 'alternative facts,'" Warnock said, referencing a term once used by a former Trump aide. "Just exchange science for fiction, or your own imagination."



# Asia

## AMID VACCINE STRUGGLES

# PH cases hit 500K

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Coronavirus infections in the Philippines have surged past 500,000 in a new bleak milestone with the government facing criticism for failing to immediately launch a vaccination program amid a global scramble for COVID-19 vaccines.

The Department of Health reported 1,895 new infections Sunday, bringing confirmed coronavirus cases in the country to 500,577, the second highest in Southeast Asia. There have been at least 9,895 deaths.

The Philippines has been negotiating with seven Western and Chinese companies to secure 148 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine but the effort has been fraught with uncertainties and confusion. About 50,000 doses from China-based Sinovac Biotech Ltd. may arrive later next month followed by much larger shipments, according to the government, but concerns have been raised over its efficacy.

President Rodrigo Duterte says securing the vaccines has been difficult because wealthy nations have secured massive doses for their citizens first.

Duterte's elite guards have acknowledged they have been inoculated with a still-unauthorized COVID-19 vac-



Children ride a bike past markers placed outside the Santo Nino Parish at Tondo district, Manila, Philippines on Friday, Jan. 15, 2021.

cine partly to ensure that they would not infect the 75-year-old president. The disclosure set off a flurry of criticism, including from senators, who moved to investigate the illegal vaccinations of the presidential guards, but Duterte ordered his guards not to appear before the Senate.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ A Chinese province grappling with a spike in coronavirus cases is reinstating tight restrictions on weddings, funerals and other family gatherings, threatening violators with criminal charges. The notice from the high court in Hebei province did not give specifics, but said all types of social gatherings were now

being regulated to prevent further spread of the virus. Hebei has had one of China's most serious outbreaks in months that comes amid measures to curb the further spread during February's Lunar New Year holiday. Authorities have called on citizens not to travel, ordered schools closed a week early and conducted testing on a massive scale. Hebei recorded another 54 cases over the previous 24 hours, the National Health Commission said on Monday, while the northern province of Jilin reported 30 cases and Heilongjiang further north reported seven. Beijing had two new cases and most buildings and housing compounds now require proof of a negative coronavirus test for entry.

bris from collapsed buildings. The governor's office building was almost flattened and a shopping mall was reduced to a crumpled hulk.

The disaster agency said the evacuees are in dire need of basic necessities—blankets, mats, tents, baby food and medical services.

The disaster agency's chief, Doni Monardo, said authorities were trying to separate high- and lower-risk groups and provided tens of thousands of anti-coronavirus masks for those needing shelters. He said authorities would also set up health posts at the camps to test people for the virus.

People being housed in temporary shelters were seen standing close together, many of them without masks, saying that they difficult to observe health protocols in this emergency situation.

West Sulawesi province has recorded more than 2,500 cases of the coronavirus, including 58 deaths. Indonesia has confirmed nearly 908,000 cases and almost 26,000 fatalities.

## Aid effort intensifies after Indonesia quake that killed 81

**MAMUJU, Indonesia** (AP)—Aid was reaching the thousands of people left homeless and struggling after an earthquake that killed at least 81 people on an Indonesian island where rescuers intensified their work Monday to find those buried in the rubble.

More rescuers and volunteers were deployed in the hardest-hit city of Mamuju and the neighboring district of Majene on Sulawesi island, where the magnitude 6.2 quake struck early Friday, said Raditya Jati, the National Disaster Mitigation Agency's spokesperson.

He said a total of 70 people died in Mamuju and 11 in Majene, and about 27,850 survivors were moved to shelters. Nearly 800 people were injured, with more than half of them still receiving treatment for serious injuries.

Water, which has been in short supply, as well as food and medical supplies were being distributed from trucks. The military said it sent five planes carrying rescue personnel, food, medicine, blankets, field tents and water tankers.

Volunteers and rescue personnel erected more temporary shelters for those left homeless in Mamuju and Majene.

Most were barely protected by makeshift shelters that were lashed by heavy monsoon downpours. Only a few were lucky to be protected by tarpaulin-covered tents. They said they were running low on food, blankets and other aid, as emergency supplies were rushed to the hard-hit region.

Mahatir, a relief coordinator for volunteer rescuers, said his team was trying to reach many people in six isolated villages in Majene district after the quake damaging roads and bridges. Aid and other logistic supplies can be distributed only by foot over the severe terrain, said Mahatir who goes by one name.

Jati said at least 1,150 houses in Majene were damaged and the agency was still collecting data on damaged houses and buildings in Mamuju.

Mamuju, the provincial capital of nearly 300,000 people, was strewn with de-

# World

## Brazil's health agency OK's use of 2 vaccines

**RIO DE JANEIRO** (AP)—Brazil's health regulator on Sunday approved the urgent use of coronavirus vaccines made by Sinovac and AstraZeneca, enabling Latin America's largest nation to begin an immunization program that's been subject to delay and political disputes.

Brazil currently has 6 million doses of Sinovac's CoronaVac vaccine ready to distribute in the next few days and is awaiting the arrival of 2 million doses of the vaccine made by AstraZeneca and partner Oxford University.

"This is good news for Brazil, but 6 million doses are still very few. It will not allow the entire population at risk to be fully immunized, nor is it clear how quickly the country will obtain more vaccines," said Ethel Maciel, an epidemiologist at the Federal University of Espirito Santo.

On Saturday night, the health regulator Anvisa rejected an application for use of a Russian vaccine called Sputnik V, submitted by Brazilian company União Química. Anvisa said it didn't evaluate the application because it didn't meet minimum requirements to start an analysis.

Vaccination in Brazil is beginning later than neigh-

bors such as Argentina and Chile despite a robust public health system and decades of experience with immunization campaigns. The process to present and approve the COVID-19 vaccines was fraught with conflict, as allies of President Jair Bolsonaro sought to cast doubt on the efficacy of the Sinovac shot backed by his political rival, Sao Paulo state's Gov. João Doria.

"The rivalry between Brasilia and the state governments prevented any cooperative work," said Mauricio Santoro, professor of political science at the University of the State of Rio de Janeiro. "The governor lost the leadership position, but made Bolsonaro act more quickly to guarantee the start of vaccination."

The vaccination priority will be health professionals on the front line against coronavirus. Vaccination by the federal government will begin on Wednesday, Health Minister Eduardo Pazuello said on Sunday.

Sao Paulo state started immunization Sunday after Anvisa's decision. Mônica Calazans, a 54-year-old nurse who works on the coronavirus front line, was vaccinated in a ceremony led by Doria. Calazans had participated in

the CoronaVac clinical trial. As more doses are available, immunization will be extended to others including the Indigenous population, people over 60 years of age and people with pre-existing diseases, according to the vaccination plan presented by the federal government.

The Brazilian government is considering extending the time between the application of first and second doses of immunizers to reach more people quickly, Health Minister Eduardo Pazuello said in Manaus on Monday.

The Amazonian city of Manaus, the first state capital whose health system collapsed in 2020 due to the pandemic, is once again experiencing a critical situation, with a lack of oxygen in some hospitals. Doctors in the Amazon rainforest's biggest city are having to choose which COVID-19 patients can breathe amid dwindling oxygen stocks.

Hospitals in Manaus, an isolated city of 2.2 million people, have admitted few new COVID-19 patients, causing many to suffer from the disease at home and some to die. Other Brazilian states have offered to receive patients and decongest Manaus' health system.

## Uganda's opposition rejects Museveni's reelection as 'fraud'

**KAMPALA, Uganda** (AP)—A day after Uganda's longtime leader was declared winner of the country's presidential election, the opposition party dismissed the results as "fraud" and called for the release of their leader, Bobi Wine, who has been allegedly under house arrest since polling day.

President Yoweri Museveni won a sixth five-year term, extending his rule to four decades, according to official results.

Uganda's military on Sunday continued to hold top opposition challenger Wine at his home, saying troops were there to protect him. Wine dismissed Museveni's victory as "cooked-up, fraudulent results" while his party urged the government to release him.

Wine said Sunday that he has proof that he actually won the election.

"We were leading Gen. Museveni by a very large margin, so large that he could not re-

cover," said Wine, speaking on his cell phone to international journalists from his home.

"Our polling agents have proof of our victory," said Wine. "We have proof that the military carried out voting fraud but we cannot publish these videos because the internet is cut and because the military is chasing our polling agents."

Wine said his party, the National Unity Platform, has video evidence of the military stuffing ballot boxes, casting ballots for people and chasing voters away from polling stations.

Wine tweeted Sunday that military units are not allowing him and his wife, Barbie, from leaving their house, not even to harvest food from their garden.

"It's now four days since the military surrounded our home and placed my wife and I under house arrest," said Wine's tweet. "We have run out of food supplies and when my wife tried to pick

food from the garden yesterday, she was blocked and assaulted by the soldiers staged in our compound."

Wine said that while he and his wife are being held captive at their property, they are concerned about the safety of his party's polling agents and other supporters.

"We are detained at our house, while others have been abducted and are missing. The military is conducting a massive campaign to arrest our agents. Many are on the run."

Wine said he and his supporters are pursuing a legal and peaceful challenge to Museveni.

"What we are doing is moral and right. We are doing this legally and non-violently. So many people are paying the price for standing up for what is moral and what is right for Uganda. Forty-five million Ugandans are yearning for peaceful change, to redefine our country and our democracy."



# Overdrive

By LARRY PRINTZ  
Tribune News Service  
(TNS)

**DORAL, Fla.**—Until now, keeping up with the Joneses and their Tesla Model Y meant buying a, well, a Tesla Model Y. Or possibly the Hyundai Kona Electric Vehicle. But unless you live in a communist country, what's so great about buying the same vehicle as everyone else? It's like saying, "Yes, but my Trabant is newer."

Come March, there will be another choice, the Volkswagen ID.4, the first in a series of Volkswagen EVs under the company's new ID brand. Now, you're probably wondering what ID stands for. In this case, it means Intelligent Design, rather than the part of your psyche that responds to basic needs and desires.

Initially offered in Pro and First Edition trims, the two-row, five-seat crossover is built using Volkswagen's new MEB electric-car platform, and is 4.6 inches shorter, 1.9 inches lower, and 0.5 inches wider than a Volkswagen Tiguan. All models come with a body color roof, black roof rails, and 19-inch aluminum alloy wheels, although you can opt for 20-inch wheels and a black roof with silver roof rails, fixed panoramic glass roof, LED projector headlights with adaptive front lighting, and power-folding side mirrors with

puddle lamps.

Given the dull, slab-sided seriousness of Volkswagen SUVs, the ID.4's gently flowing beltline lends a sensuous softness that counterpoints the vehicle's sensible shape, while a gray accent visually lowers it, making it very approachable and stylish, with a mainstream charm that's sure to age well.

Climb inside and you'll find far more space than its size suggests, with 99.9 cubic feet of passenger volume, and 30.3 cubic feet of cargo space, expanding to 64.2 cubic feet with the seats folded. Head and leg room are superior to the larger Tiguan, despite its shorter length, due to the driveline components being tucked beneath the vehicle, allowing for a flat floor.

The ID.4's ambience is starkly modern, with none of the visual clutter that's common in most vehicles. The instrument panel dominated by two flatscreens: a 5.3-inch screen mounted on the steering column that tilts and telescopes with the steering wheel, and a larger 10-inch touchscreen atop the center console—a 12-inch screen is optional and can be fitted with an optional augmented-reality head-up display. In addition, all buttons are capacitive, although there's no haptic feedback to alert you of activation.

Oddly, the transmission switch is mounted next to the instrument cluster and actuates by twisting it forward for drive, and rearward for reverse. A button on its side engages park. It's very intuitive despite its uncommon design.

And the cabin bristles with thoughtful design. The center console features a forward-sloped surface for wireless charging as well as Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. The console bin's removable dividers form a cupholder. You'll find small secondary pockets on the back of the front seatbacks to hold smartphones. And the base of the B-pillars has tie-down points, in case you need to secure cargo. The rear cargo deck's floor opens to reveal a shallow secondary storage compartment along with another housing the ID.4's charger and tire patch kit. There is no spare tire, but there a number of grocery bag hooks and USB-C ports.

Standard features include a 10-inch touchscreen, rain-sensing wipers, auto-dimming rearview mirror, dual-zone automatic climate control, keyless entry, a heated steering wheel and a 4G LTE-enabled hotspot for up to four devices.

So far so good; and it only gets better when it comes time to drive. You'll be surprised that, unlike most crossover SUVs and much like the original Beetle, the ID.4 is rear-wheel drive. It's rear-mounted 82 kW AC Permanent-Magnet Synchronous Motor and one-speed automatic transmission is mounted to the rear axle, producing 201 horsepower, and 228 pound-feet of torque. Employing rear-wheel drive allowed Volkswagen engineers to use a more powerful engine and eliminate torque steer, a common problem with front-wheel-drive EVs. An all-wheel drive model with more power is arriving later in 2021.

As it stands, the ID.4 is lively and responsive, with the MEB platform providing a solid, planted feel thanks to the placement of the batteries between the axles. It adeptly balances compliance and control, while the absence of an internal combustion engine and road noise makes for a pleasantly peaceful driving experience. And the accelerator and brake pedals are playfully embossed with play and pause symbols. Plus, you'll be thrilled to find its 33.5-foot turning radius makes quick turnarounds easy.

All ID.4s include forward collision warning with autonomous emergency braking and pedestrian monitoring; blind

spot monitor; rear traffic alert; adaptive cruise control; lane keeping assist; emergency assist; dynamic road sign display; park distance control; high beam control; anti-lock braking system and electronic stability control.

The rear-wheel-drive 2021 ID.4 Pro will start at \$39,995, before a potential federal tax credit of up to \$7,500 that prices it equal to that of a Tiguan SEL.

With its fun-to-drive persona, sublimely good looks, potent powerplant and thoughtful design, the 2021 Volkswagen ID.4 will prove to be a formidable competitor in the compact crossover EV market.

## AUTO REVIEW:

# The 2021

# Volkswagen ID.4

proves to be a potent new EV



TNS  
The 2021 Volkswagen ID.4.

## NUTS & BOLTS

### 2021 Volkswagen ID.4 First Edition

- Base price: \$39,995
- Powertrain: AC Permanent-Magnet Synchronous Motor
- Horsepower/Torque: 201/228
- EPA fuel economy (city/

highway): 104/89 MPGe

- Range: 250 mpg
- Charge time (220 volts): 7 hours, 30 minutes
- Length/Width/Height: 180.5/72.9/66.4 inches
- Cargo capacity: 30.3-64.2 cubic feet

# Motormouth: A solar battery charger

By BOB WEBER  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

**Q: Like a lot of people, I haven't been driving much during the pandemic. I couldn't start the car one day, had it jumped, and drove right to the dealership, where they replaced the battery. A clerk told me**

**that four computers are operating at all times in the car, draining the battery, and that I needed to drive the car more to charge the battery. I don't want to drive around just to charge my battery. He instead suggested I buy a battery charger, but I do not have an electrical outlet where I park my car.**

—S.P., Chicago

**A:** A solar battery charger might be the answer. You simply place it on the dash and let the sun work its magic. Of course, in the winter we have short days so be sure to park your car facing south to get the most sunlight. Select a 12-volt charger with at least a 10-watt or higher rating.

**Q: The alloy wheels on my 2009 Mazda-6 are slow-leaking air along the tire beads setting off the TPM alarm**

**necessitating trips to an air pump every 2-3 weeks. Leaks occur randomly among the four wheels. I understand this is due to corrosion of the rim flanges in contact with tire beads. With the advent of cold weather, the tires are leaking air faster. What to do?**

—P.K., Portland, Conn.

**A:** You have a couple options. One is to get a set of steel wheels for the winter. They leak less and your alloy wheels will avoid the ravages of winter road salt. The other is to have the tires removed from the wheels, the corrosion sanded off and bead sealant applied before remounting the tires. But there is no guarantee that this is a permanent solution.

**Q: My daughter just bought a 2021 Subaru Forester that has some kind of mechanism that stops-restarts automati-**

**cally every time she stops at a light or stop sign. I read it has something to do with reducing emissions. But my question is, doesn't that put added stress on the starter, alternator and other parts? Wouldn't that reduce the life of these parts?**

—C.T., Coral Springs, Fla.

**A:** The automatic stop-start feature would put stress on typical parts, but those in such vehicles are much more robust. Their service life will not be reduced.

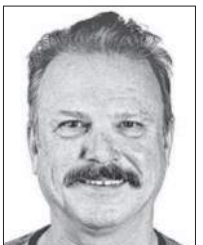
**Q: When I have a downslope ahead of me that is clear of other traffic, I frequently shift into neutral on my automatic transmission and coast to save gas. Can I create engine or transmission damage when I shift back to drive?**

—J.S., Easton, Pa.

**A:** Shifting into neutral does

By BOB WEBER  
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



not save gas on fuel injected engines. At a predetermined speed, with the throttle closed, the fuel injection is turned off. Keep the transmission in gear in case you need to speed up to avoid an accident or an animal.

**Q: I was very disappointed to discover that almost all new cars do not have CD players anymore. I purchased a 2020 Ford Fusion and I would like to know if there is**

**any way that I can hook up a CD player in my car?**

—D.J., Arlington Heights, Ill

**A:** Shop for an external CD player. Choose a player that can connect to your car's system via a 3.5mm stereo cable or USB cable. For a lot more money, you can find a CD player that mimics an iPod so you can have all functions of the vehicle's audio system.



# Life & Style

## Phil Spector, famed music producer and murderer, dies at 81

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Phil Spector, the eccentric and revolutionary music producer who transformed rock music with his “Wall of Sound” method and who later was convicted of murder, has died. He was 81.

California state prison officials said he died Saturday of natural causes at a hospital.

Spector was convicted of murdering actress Lana Clarkson in 2003 at his castle-like mansion on the edge of Los Angeles. After a trial in 2009, he was sentenced to 19 years to life.

While most sources give Spector’s birth date as 1940, it was listed as 1939 in court documents following his arrest. His lawyer subsequently confirmed that date to The Associated Press.

Clarkson, star of “Barbarian Queen” and other B-movies,

was found shot to death in the foyer of Spector’s mansion in the hills overlooking Alhambra, a modest suburban town on the edge of Los Angeles.

Until the actress’ death, which Spector maintained was an “accidental suicide,” few residents even knew the mansion belonged to the reclusive producer, who spent his remaining years in a prison hospital east of Stockton.

Decades before, Spector had been hailed as a visionary for channeling Wagnerian ambition into the three-minute song, creating the “Wall of Sound” that merged spirited vocal harmonies with lavish orchestral arrangements to produce such pop monuments as “Da Doo Ron Ron,” “Be My Baby” and “He’s a Rebel.”

He was the rare self-conscious

artist in rock’s early years and cultivated an image of mystery and power with his dark shades and impassive expression.

Tom Wolfe declared him the “first tycoon of teen.” Bruce Springsteen and Brian Wilson openly replicated his grandiose recording techniques and wide-eyed romanticism, and John Lennon called him “the greatest record producer ever.”

The secret to his sound: an overdubbed onslaught of instruments, vocals and sound effects that changed the way

pop records were recorded. He called the result, “Little symphonies for the kids.”

By his mid-20s his “little symphonies” had resulted in nearly two dozen hit singles and made him a millionaire. “You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feeling,” the operatic Righteous Brothers ballad which topped the charts in 1965, has been tabulated as the song most played on radio and television—counting the many



**Spector**

cover versions—in the 20th century.

But thanks in part to the arrival of the Beatles, his chart success would soon fade. When “River Deep—Mountain High,” an aptly-named 1966 release that featured Tina Turner, failed to catch on, Spector shut down his record label and withdrew from the business for three years. He would go on to produce the Beatles and Lennon among others, but he was

now serving the artists, instead of the other way around.

In 1969, Spector was called in to salvage the Beatles’ “Let It Be” album, a troubled “back to basics” production marked by dissension within the band. Although Lennon praised Spector’s work, bandmate Paul McCartney was enraged, especially when Spector added strings and a choir to McCartney’s “The Long and Winding Road.” Years later, McCartney would oversee a remixed “Let it Be,” removing Spector’s contributions.

## Rodin Museum sculpture garden reopens to public

**PARIS (AP)**—There is a ray of light for Parisians who, like the rest of the French nation this weekend, begin to observe a tightened coronavirus curfew: The famous Rodin Museum sculpture gardens is reopening to visitors.

Though the rococo museum, showcasing the world’s largest collection of Rodin sculptures, remains closed, visitors are now able to enter the sculpture-filled surrounding gardens that overlooked the gold dome of Les Invalides monument. They had been shuttered since November and reopened Saturday.

Now, the pink viburnum is in bloom, and forsythia buds poke out between the bronze forms.

“It’s fantastic,” Matthew Cordell, an American resident of Paris, said Sunday. “It’s been a tough confinement ... We chose to live in Paris because we love the museums so it’s really nice to be able to get out and see some art.”

Others appreciated the set-



AP

In this Tuesday, May 31, 2011 file photo, people stand in the garden of the Rodin museum in Paris.

ting, even if they were undecided by the artist himself.

“Coming back to culture is extremely important, even if I’m not exactly a Rodin fan,” visitor Philippe Boirel said

Sunday.

Some of Rodin’s most famous sculptures like The Thinker, a towering contemplative bronze, can be seen there amid the greenery. Hid-

den in the thickets amid the strolling public, Orpheus tunes his lyre.

Tickets for the Musee Rodin at 77 rue de Varenne in Paris are six euros (about \$7.25).

## William urges public to follow queen’s example and get jab

**LONDON (AP)**—Prince William is encouraging everyone in Britain to follow the example of Queen Elizabeth II, his grandmother, in being inoculated against COVID-19 as authorities battle unsubstantiated fears about vaccine safety.

The second in line to the throne spoke about the queen and her spouse, Prince Philip, during a video call with National Health Service staff and volunteers that was released late Saturday. The medics told William some members of the public are reluctant to get any of the coronavirus vaccines authorized by regulators.

“My grandparents have

had the vaccine and I am very proud of them for doing that,” William said. “It is really important that everyone gets the vaccine when they are told to.”

The queen, 94, last week disclosed that she and Philip, 99, had received the first dose of vaccine. The disclosure was meant to end speculation about the matter and to boost confidence in the shots as the NHS seeks to give the first dose of vaccine to everyone over 70 by the middle of February.

British authorities have made vaccinating older people their first priority because they are most at risk of dying from COVID-19.

## Dad objects to sharing his part in daughter’s wedding

**DEAR ABBY:** Yesterday, my daughter informed me that her boyfriend will soon come to me to ask for her hand in marriage. She also told me she intends to have both her stepfather and me walk her down the aisle. This creates a huge problem for me.

Her mother and I divorced 13 years ago because of marital infidelity on her part. She was having an affair with the man who is now my daughter’s stepfather. When my daughter told me her plans, it took all my self-control not to go through the roof.

I have thought about my daughter’s wedding day since the day she was born, and now she wants me to share it with this individual who has caused me so much pain. Her feeling is he has been with her entire life, and she wants him in the wedding. I understand it to some extent, although for her to ask me to give up even a bit of this honor cuts me to my core.

One of her reasons for asking is we had a strained relationship for a number of years. I was never out of her life, although there were periods of time when we would fight constantly.

I don’t want to miss the opportunity to walk my baby girl down the aisle, but I simply cannot share this honor with someone who basically stole my family.

NOT FORGIVING IN TEXAS

**DEAR NOT FORGIVING:** I know this is painful for

you, but you are not in control. If you are going to have the honor of walking your daughter down the aisle, you will have to figure out a compromise. I’m suggesting you walk her halfway to the altar and your daughter’s stepfather take her the rest of the way, or vice versa. It has been done before.

**DEAR ABBY:** At what age is it no longer appropriate to share a bed with your child? My sister-in-law “Mara” is a single mom with a 13-year-old daughter. Until recently we were quite close, but we haven’t spoken in a few months. Mostly it’s because of COVID restrictions, but we had begun drifting apart even before.

Last week I saw on Facebook that she had made a comment about them still sharing a bed. I think it’s weird and creepy. It goes against every boundary I have as a mother myself.

Should I keep my mouth shut? She won’t listen to my husband (her brother) because he has been branded an “abusive misogynist.” Mara loves to play the victim and interprets any criticism, however slight, as abuse—especially if it comes from a man.

Getting in touch with her out of the blue to talk about this seems over the top, but I’m genuinely concerned about the long-term impact on her daughter, who has voiced in the past (not in front of Mara) that she prefers to sleep alone. Is

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



this none of my business?

OVER THE LINE

**DEAR OVER:** If you suspect your niece is being sexually abused, child protective services should be contacted. Otherwise, it is none of your business. Not every family—or culture, for that matter—has the same standards. Until your niece finds the courage to tell her mother she no longer wants to share a bed, nothing will change in that household.

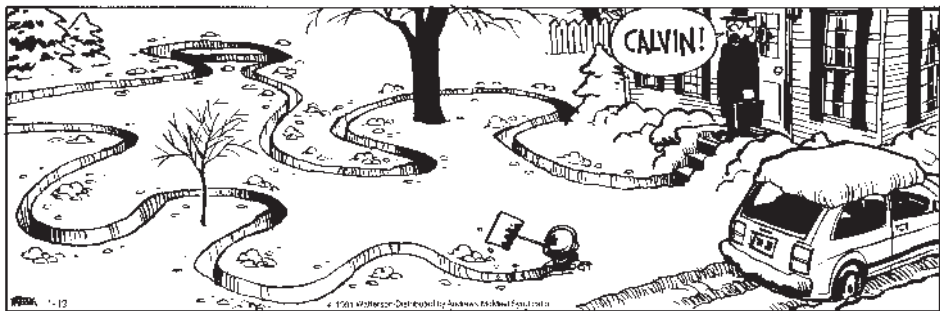
For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Cleans the floor  
5 Chill in the air  
8 Blacken  
12 One-named super-model  
13 Blunder  
14 Capital on a fjord  
15 Leave on a schooner  
17 Second-hand  
18 The Magic on scoreboards  
19 Peak (Abbr.)  
20 lcky  
21 "Mayday!"  
22 Genetic stuff  
23 Cabbage salads  
26 Ark pairings  
30 Kid's plea  
31 Witty one  
32 Anti-fur org.  
33 Bigwig  
35 Fibber's admission  
36 Shop tool

**DOWN**

37 Poetic tribute  
38 Orderly grouping  
41 St.  
42 Crunchy sandwich  
45 Crawl space?  
46 Aspen and Vail, e.g.  
48 Recipe meas.  
49 Brooch  
50 Actress Farniga  
51 Beholds  
52 Hydrocarbon suffix  
53 Mast

**1 Japanese soup**  
**20 Bearded beast**  
**2 Actor Epps**  
**3 Sandbox toy**  
**4 NBC sketch show**  
**5 Salamanders**  
**6 Persia, today**  
**7 Snoop**  
**8 Granny Smith, for one**  
**9 Canadian gas brand**  
**10 Pub orders**  
**11 Scepters**  
**16 Old Testament book**  
**21 Heidi's mountains**  
**22 Pooch**  
**23 Learning ctr.**  
**24 "7 Faces of Dr. —"**  
**25 Busy insect**  
**26 Purring pet**  
**27 Floral ring**  
**28 Paris summer**  
**29 Feeling down**  
**31 Dazzle**  
**34 Dinner for Dobbins**  
**35 Concept**  
**37 Sheep-ish?**  
**38 Rental units (Abbr.)**  
**39 Judicial garb**  
**40 Valentine flower**  
**41 Related**  
**42 Pager sound**  
**43 Zhivago's love**  
**44 Russian ruler**  
**46 Hotel amenity**  
**47 Motor homes**

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 1-19**

## CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Shawn Johnson, 29; Drea de Matteo, 49; Katey Sagal, 67; Dolly Parton, 75.

**Happy Birthday:** Choose charm, honesty and loyalty, and you will gain ground this year. A pushy or demanding approach will cause friction between you and those who can influence the outcome of what you want to accomplish. Take better care of your health, possessions and investments. Don't rely on others to do things for you. Strive to maintain peace of mind. Your numbers are 3, 14, 17, 23, 31, 37, 45.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** If you care, share. What you do to help a cause or someone in need will make you feel good. Keep emotional issues and personal matters to yourself. Don't take an unnecessary risk. Touch base with people who bring out the best in you. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Put your time and energy to proper use. Take care of unfinished business before starting something new. Look for unique ways to use your skills and knowledge beneficially. Choose kindness over conflict, and you'll find common ground. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't let confusion take over and ruin your day. Do your best to take care of responsibilities, regardless of what's going on around you. Learn from the experience, and push forward without hesitation. A job well done will lead to financial gain. \*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Someone who has something unique to offer will appeal to you. Handle partnerships carefully.

Don't let your emotions take over or lead to assumptions. Be a good listener, gather facts and make wise decisions, and you'll avoid a misunderstanding. \*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You'll have plenty to mull over. Get organized, and gather the information that will help you make better decisions. A problem with someone you work with will develop if you cannot agree on the best way to advance a project. \*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Explore the possibilities. An offer you receive will interest you, but consider the cost before you get involved. A personal accomplishment will boost confidence and encourage you to make a romantic gesture. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Use reason when dealing with relationships. Don't jump to conclusions or make a fuss without having all the facts. Spend time sorting through clutter and letting go of the past before you engage in something new. Avoid making unnecessary purchases. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Catch up with an old friend or relative via phone or email. Rethink your situation and what you are up against personally, professionally and emotionally. Look for alternative lifestyles and personal improvements that will ease stress. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Make a change to how you earn your living or handle your finances. Sticking to a budget and lowering your overhead will ease tension at home and make your life better. Be

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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smart and distance yourself from individuals who choose excess. \*\*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Difficulty with a friend, relative or co-worker will surface if you let your emotions take over. Refuse to get dragged into someone's dilemma. Concentrate on fitness and self-improvement, and maintain peace of mind. Make romance and love priorities. \*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Share your intentions, and you will resolve pending issues. Holding in your feelings will cause stress and anxiety that will affect your health and emotional well-being. Honesty is the best policy, and reliability will help you gain favors. \*\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Say what's on your mind. Be direct, and the response you receive will be honest and reliable.

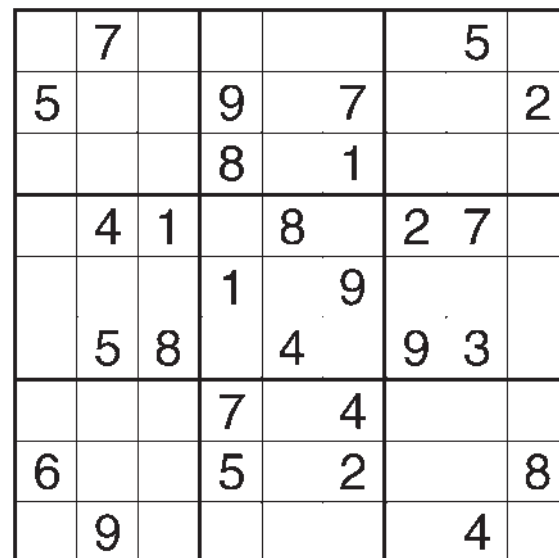
The more aware you are of the people around you and how they think, the better. Your success depends on trust and accurate information. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are tenacious, powerful and enthusiastic. You are convincing and comprehensive.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



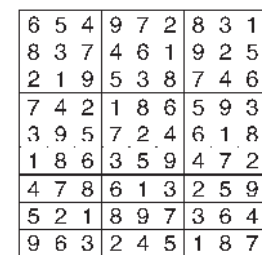
Difficulty Level ★★

1/19

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CAR RALLIES

Solution: 10 letters



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Activities, Brake, Challenges, Clues, Competitors, Course, Days, Driver, Drivetrain, Engine, Entry, Fees, Finish, Flays, Gravel, Group, Legs, Models, Paper, Passes, Pens, Planning, Points, Position, Public, Puzzles, Race, Road, Route, Runs, Safe, Scores, Sponsors, Stops, Tarmac, Tasks, Teams, Tickets, Time, Tour, Travel, Trophies, Wins, Wristwatch

Yesterday's Answer: Golden Boy

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 61 order on me at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Brady, Bucs oust Saints; Chiefs survive

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)**—Tom Brady's best game in three tries against New Orleans kept the Buccaneers moving on in the NFL playoffs, and has Saints quarterback Drew Brees headed home—perhaps for good.

Brady and the Bucs' offense turned three of four Saints turnovers into touchdowns and Tampa Bay beat New Orleans 30-20 in the divisional round of the playoffs Sunday night.

Two of those touchdowns came on short passes to Mike Evans and Leonard Fournette. And after linebacker Devin White snagged the second of three interceptions thrown by Brees, Brady drove the Bucs to the 1, from where he scored



AP  
Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) is at the line of scrimmage against the New Orleans Saints during the second half of an NFL divisional round playoff game, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021, in New Orleans.

## Chargers hire Rams DC Brandon Staley as head coach

**COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP)** — Brandon Staley won't have to move that far for his first head coaching opportunity.

Staley agreed to become the Los Angeles Chargers' coach on Sunday night after one season as the defensive coordinator for the cross-town Rams.

The Chargers made the decision to hire Staley after their second interview with him. The interview was held a day after the Rams were eliminated from the playoffs with a 32-18 loss to the Green Bay Packers.

"It's not just that Brandon possesses a tremendous football mind that makes him the ideal head coach to lead our team forward," general manager Tom Telesco said in a statement. "It's that he excels in the ability to effectively tailor, apply and communicate his concepts to players."

"It's clear that Brandon will not be outworked. He's the football equivalent of a gym rat, and that has earned him the universal respect of the players he has coached throughout his journey."

The 38-year old Staley was in demand with interviews also scheduled with the Houston Texans and Philadelphia Eagles. He also had an interview with the New York Jets before they hired Robert Saleh last Thursday.

Staley, who will be formally introduced Thursday, replaces Anthony Lynn, who was fired on Jan. 4 after going 7-9 this past season. Lynn had a 33-31 mark in four seasons and led the Chargers to the divisional round of the playoffs in 2018.

himself with 4:57 left to virtually ensure his 14th trip to a conference championship game—his first in the NFC.

That game will take place in Green Bay next week, where the 43-year-old Brady will try to advance to his 10th Super Bowl in a showdown with Packers All-Pro QB Aaron Rodgers.

"We worked hard to get to this point. Two road playoff wins is pretty sweet," Brady said. "We've got to go beat a great football team we know pretty well. Aaron's playing incredible."

Meanwhile, the Brees era in New Orleans could be over after 15 seasons.

While just 3,750 tickets were distributed in the 73,000-seat Superdome to comply with local COVID-19 restrictions, the fans made themselves heard with an eruption of cheers when the 42-year-old Brees first took the field for New Orleans (13-5), seemingly sensing this could be their last chance to see him play at home.

Brees, under contract for one more year, declined to say whether he's retiring. After he'd changed in the locker room, he walked back onto the field and watched his four children play, at one point sharing a long embrace with his wife, Brittany.

"I appreciate all that this game has given to me," Brees said. "There are obviously so many incredible memories."

If it was his last game, it

won't be one he'll want to remember. The NFL's all-time leader in completions and yards passing was 19 of 34 for 134 yards, one touchdown and three interceptions.

"A couple of them I probably shouldn't have thrown and maybe forced it," Brees said. "That's what this game came down to is those turnovers because all of those gave them the ball deep in our territory, and you can't do that with (Tampa Bay's) offense. They're too good and they're going to capitalize on that, which they did."

Brady finished 18 of 33 for 199 yards in what often resembled more of a defensive struggle. Unlike his previous two meetings with the Saints—both losses—he was not intercepted and largely avoided pressure, taking only one sack.

"Really just locking in and

playing a lot better than we did the first two times we played them," he said. "We had a bunch of turnovers last time. This time they turned it over and that's usually the story of football games."

After Brees' third interception on a tipped pass late in the fourth quarter, the Bucs were able to close out the game with Brady, in his first season with Tampa Bay (13-5) after 20 with New England, taking a knee.

"Obviously they beat us twice in the regular season," Bucs left tackle Donovan Smith said. "We came around in Round 3 with the knockout."

"We've been building. You got to get hot at the right time."

## Mahomes 'doing good' after concussion

Patrick Mahomes had enough wits about him after a concussion knocked the star quar-

terback from the Kansas City Chiefs' divisional-round playoff win over the Cleveland Browns to get a rather clever hashtag trending on Twitter.

"HenneThingIsPossible," it read.

It was a reference to his backup, Chad Henne, who came on when Mahomes got hurt midway through the third quarter Sunday. Henne pulled off two edge-of-your seat plays in the closing minutes, scrambling for 13 yards on third-and-14 before a fourth-down completion to Tyreek Hill, which allowed the Chiefs to run out the clock and preserve a 22-17 victory.

Now, the question is whether Mahomes will be cleared to play the Buffalo Bills in the AFC title game next Sunday.

"He's doing great right now, which is a real positive as we look at this. He passed all the deals he needed to pass and

we'll see where it goes from here," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said after the game. "I just talked to him and he's doing good. We'll see how he is tomorrow, but right now he's feeling good."

Mahomes had been shredding the Browns most of the cold, windy afternoon. He completed 21 of 30 passes for 255 yards with touchdowns on the ground and through the air, helping the Chiefs take a 19-3 lead at halftime.

They still led 19-10 after Baker Mayfield's touchdown pass to Jarvis Landry early in the third quarter, and were on the move again near midfield. But on third-and-1, the Chiefs decided to run an option play toward their sideline and Mahomes elected to keep the ball, ducking for the first-down yardage just as Browns linebacker Mack Wilson got him around the head.

Mahomes remained crumpled on the turf as about 17,000 fans sat in stunned silence.

When he tried getting to his feet, his leg buckled and Mahomes nearly went down again. It took the training staff to help him get to the blue tent on the sideline, and he emerged from that a few minutes later and jogged to the locker room.

In a matter of minutes, he had been ruled out with a concussion.

Following the game, Wilson went on Twitter and sent his best wishes for Mahomes to return next week.

"All good brother!" Mahomes said.

Wilson also defended his reputation, claiming he's "never been a dirty player in my life. I just try my best to play fast and make plays."





# Zion, Pelicans spoil Fox's big night for Kings



**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** (AP)—Zion Williamson had 31 points and six rebounds, Steven Adams made a pair of clutch free throws with 17.9 seconds remaining, and the New Orleans Pelicans overcame a 43-point performance by Sacramento's De'Aaron Fox and beat the Kings 128-123 Sunday night.

Brandon Ingram scored 22 points, Eric Bledsoe added 21 and Adams had 12 points and 15 rebounds to help the Pelicans end a five-game losing streak.

Fox, who was limited to 14 points in a 38-point loss to the Clippers two nights earlier, had a career-high point total and 13 assists for the Kings, who have lost eight of 10.

New Orleans led by 19 points in the first half before the Kings made a late run. Marvin Bagley made a 3-pointer and Fox followed with a one-handed dunk that cut the deficit to 116-115.

Adams and Williamson made two free throws apiece for the Pelicans and Bledsoe scored in the paint to make it 122-115.

After the Kings scored on back-to-back trips down the court, Adams made two more free throws and JJ Reddick added two more, helping the Pelicans hang on.

Williamson fell one point shy of his season-high for scoring. The Pelicans' big man made 13 of 15 attempts and spent much of the fourth quarter on the bench in foul trouble.

Bagley finished with 26 points and 10 rebounds.

Williamson made eight of nine shots and had 18 points in the first half, including a pair of emphatic dunks. Ingram added 16 first-half points and scored six of the Pelicans' final eight in the second quarter to put New Orleans up 67-58.

Meanwhile, another NBA game was called off Sunday



New Orleans Pelicans forward Zion Williamson, right, takes a shot against Sacramento Kings' Richaun Holmes during the first quarter of an NBA game in Sacramento, Calif., Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021.

Kennard added season highs of 20 points and five 3-pointers. Paul George also had 20 points. Kawhi Leonard had 17 points, seven rebounds and five assists for the Clippers.

Doug McDermott led the Pacers with 23 points, making five 3-pointers. Domantas Sabonis had 19 points and 14 rebounds.

## Bulls 117, Mavericks 101

In Dallas, Lauri Markkanen had 29 points and 10 rebounds, and Garrett Temple scored 15 of his season-high 21 points in the second quarter to help Chicago end a four-game losing streak.

Dallas star Luka Doncic passed Michael Jordan on the career list with his 29th triple-double, finishing with 36 points, 16 rebounds and 15 assists, including a behind-the-back pass to Willie Cauley-Stein for a dunk. Doncic is tied with Grant Hill for 15th place.

The Slovenian sensation, who had 30 points at halftime, didn't get nearly enough help with the Mavericks missing five rotation players because of COVID-19 protocols and guard Tim Hardaway Jr. with a left groin strain.

because of coronavirus concerns, and the Memphis Grizzlies said center Jonas Valanciunas will not play Monday because of the league's health and safety protocols.

The NBA said the Philadelphia at Oklahoma City game, scheduled for Sunday night, could not be played because the 76ers did not "have the league-required eight available players to proceed" because of contact tracing.

It was the 13th game called off since Jan. 10 because of virus issues, a span in which the NBA and the National Basketball Players Association have stiffened protocols and

even added testing with hopes of keeping the season going without much in the way of additional problems.

## Knicks 105, Celtics 75

In Boston, Julius Randle had 20 points with 12 rebounds, and RJ Barrett added 19 points and 11 rebounds and New York beat the Celtics to end a five-game losing streak.

Jaylen Brown scored 25 points for Boston. The Celtics had the best record in the Eastern Conference after winning five in a row but suffered their biggest blowout and lowest-scoring output of the season.

All-Star Kemba Walker made

his season debut after missing the first 11 games with a left knee injury but left in the third quarter with a rib injury. Fellow Celtics All-Star Jayson Tatum missed his second straight game because of COVID-19.

## Jazz 109, Nuggets 105

In Denver, Jordan Clarkson scored 23 points, Donovan Mitchell added 18 and Utah beat Denver in a rematch of their first-round playoff series last season that the Nuggets won in seven games.

Rudy Gobert had 15 points and 13 rebounds in a game in which Mitchell struggled with his shot, going 7 of 20 from the

field. But Mitchell hit a clutch fadeaway with 1:01 remaining, and had seven assists to help the Jazz win their fifth straight.

Nikola Jokic had 35 points, 14 rebounds and nine assists for Denver. Jamal Murray added 30 points.

## Clippers 129, Pacers 96

In Los Angeles, Marcus Morris scored a season-high 20 points and the Clippers beat Indiana for its first four-game winning streak of the season.

With sharpshooter Lou Williams sidelined, Morris came off the bench to hit four 3-pointers, tying his season high. Fellow reserve Luke

# Japan's PM vows Olympics will be proof of victory over virus

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga vowed Monday to get the pandemic under control and hold the already postponed Olympics this summer with ample coronavirus protection.

In a speech opening a new Parliament session, Suga said his government would revise laws to make anti-virus measures enforceable with penalties and compensation.

Early in the pandemic, Japan was able to keep its virus caseload manageable with non-binding requests for businesses to close or operate with social distancing and for people to stay home. But recent weeks have seen several highs in new cases per day, in part blamed on

eased attitudes toward the anti-virus measures, and doubts are growing as more contagious variants spread while people wait for vaccines and the Olympics draw closer.

Suga said his government aimed to start vaccinations as early as late February.

"In order to restore sense of safety, I will get the coronavirus pandemic, which has raged worldwide and is now severely affecting Japan, under control as soon as possible," Suga said. "I will stand at the front-line of the battle while I get the people's cooperation."

Suga pledged to achieve the Olympics as "a proof of human victory against the coronavirus."

"We will have full anti-infection measures in place and proceed with preparation with a determination to achieve the Games that can deliver hope and courage throughout the world," he said.

Recent media polls show about 80% of the Japanese public think the Olympics will not or should not happen.

Suga said the vaccine is the "clincher" of the pandemic and hopes to start vaccination when Japan's Health Ministry is expected to approve the vaccine developed by Pfizer, one of three foreign suppliers to Japan, as early as late February. But the pace of inocula-

tion could be slow, as surveys have shown many people have safety concerns.

Suga also said in his speech, just two days ahead of U.S. President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, that he hoped to meet the new American leader soon to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. alliance and to cooperate on the pandemic, climate change and other key issues.

Japan has confirmed more than 330,000 infections and 4,500 deaths from COVID-19, numbers that have surged recently though they are still far smaller than many other countries of its size.

Suga on Jan. 7 issued a state

of emergency for the Tokyo area and expanded the step last Wednesday as the surge in infections strained medical systems. But he has been criticized for being slow to put preventative measures in place after the new surge began, apparently due to his government's reluctance to further hurt the economy.

He kept the state-subsidized "Go To" travel promotion campaign active until late December, which critics say misguided the public when people needed to practice more restraint. Suga in Monday's speech made no mention of the "Go To" campaign, which was designed to support the tourism industry devastated by the pandemic.



TOKYO 2020

| TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES   |    |   |      |     |
|-------------------------|----|---|------|-----|
| NBA STANDINGS           |    |   |      |     |
| EASTERN CONFERENCE      |    |   |      |     |
| Atlantic                |    |   |      |     |
|                         | W  | L | PCT  | GB  |
| Boston                  | 8  | 4 | .667 | 0.0 |
| Philadelphia            | 9  | 5 | .643 | 0.0 |
| Brooklyn                | 8  | 6 | .571 | 1.0 |
| New York                | 6  | 8 | .429 | 3.0 |
| Toronto                 | 4  | 8 | .333 | 4.0 |
| Central                 |    |   |      |     |
| Milwaukee               | 9  | 4 | .692 | 0.0 |
| Indiana                 | 8  | 5 | .615 | 1.0 |
| Cleveland               | 6  | 7 | .462 | 3.0 |
| Chicago                 | 5  | 8 | .385 | 4.0 |
| Detroit                 | 3  | 9 | .250 | 5.5 |
| Southeast               |    |   |      |     |
| Orlando                 | 6  | 7 | .462 | 0.0 |
| Charlotte               | 6  | 8 | .429 | 0.5 |
| Atlanta                 | 5  | 7 | .417 | 0.5 |
| Miami                   | 4  | 7 | .364 | 1.0 |
| Washington              | 3  | 8 | .273 | 2.0 |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE      |    |   |      |     |
| Pacific                 |    |   |      |     |
| LA Lakers               | 11 | 3 | .786 | 0.0 |
| LA Clippers             | 10 | 4 | .714 | 1.0 |
| Phoenix                 | 7  | 4 | .636 | 2.5 |
| Golden State            | 6  | 6 | .500 | 4.0 |
| Sacramento              | 5  | 9 | .357 | 6.0 |
| Southwest               |    |   |      |     |
| San Antonio             | 7  | 6 | .538 | 0.0 |
| Dallas                  | 6  | 6 | .500 | 0.5 |
| Memphis                 | 6  | 6 | .500 | 0.5 |
| New Orleans             | 5  | 7 | .417 | 1.5 |
| Houston                 | 4  | 7 | .364 | 2.0 |
| Northwest               |    |   |      |     |
| Utah                    | 9  | 4 | .692 | 0.0 |
| Portland                | 8  | 5 | .615 | 1.0 |
| Oklahoma City           | 6  | 6 | .500 | 2.5 |
| Denver                  | 6  | 7 | .462 | 3.0 |
| Minnesota               | 3  | 8 | .273 | 5.0 |
| BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS |    |   |      |     |



# Aussie Open: 72 tennis players in lockdown

**AUSTRALIA** (AP)—The number of players in hard quarantine swelled to 72 ahead of the Australian Open after a fifth positive coronavirus test was returned from the charter flights bringing players, coaches, officials and media to Melbourne for the season-opening tennis major.

That means they won't be allowed to leave their hotel rooms or practice for 14 days, creating a two-speed preparation period for the tournament. Other players in less rigorous quarantine will be allowed to practice for five hours daily.

Australian Open organizers confirmed late Sunday that the latest case involved a passenger on the flight from Doha, Qatar to Melbourne who was not a member of the playing contingent, But all 58 passengers, including the 25 players, now cannot leave their hotel rooms for 14 days.

There were already 47 players, including Grand Slam winners, in hard quarantine after three positive tests were returned from a charter flight that arrived from Los Angeles and one from a flight that departed Abu Dhabi.

Some players have expressed anger at being classified as close contacts merely for being on board those flights with people who later tested positive. That classification has forced them into a harsher isolation than the broader group of players.

But local government, tennis and health authorities have said all players were warned of the risks in advance.

"There's been a bit of chatter from a number of players



**AP**  
Spain's Rafael Nadal, center, arrives at Adelaide Airport ahead of the Australian Open tennis championship, Adelaide, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 14, 2021.

to have changed between what they saw before traveling to Australia and what was being imposed in Melbourne.

Cirstea posted on Twitter: "If they would have told us this rule before I would not play Australia ... I would have stayed home. They told us we would fly at 20% capacity, in sections and we would be a close contact ONLY if my team or cohort tests positive."

But Victoria's quarantine commissioner rejected those claims and explained why.

"If you're on a plane 16-24 hours, with air that circulates throughout the plane, you are a close contact," Cassar said. "This was made very clear and nothing has changed."

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley said organizers and players were forewarned there'd be a "significant risk."

"Now we have to manage an environment over the next 14 days for those who won't be able to practice," Tiley said. "It's a tough situation. We've got to do whatever we can to make it as fair as possible for those players that are in lockdown."

Being unable to leave their hotel rooms would mean the only workouts they're able to have would be on exercise equipment left in the rooms of all 72 players in lockdown. Some have posted on social media to show their makeshift training methods, including hitting tennis balls against the walls.

about the rules - well, the rules apply to them as they apply to everybody else, and they were all briefed on that before they came and that was a condition on which they came," Victoria state premier Daniel Andrews told a news conference Monday. "There's no special treatment here ... because a virus doesn't treat you specially."

Responding to reports that eight-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic had proposed a list of ideas to change the quarantine conditions for players, Andrews said: "People are free to provide lists of demands but the answer is no."

Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and

Serena Williams are among a group of players involved in an exhibition event in Adelaide, South Australia state, on Jan. 29. Those players flew straight to Adelaide to begin their hotel quarantine period. So far, there's been no COVID-19 cases reported from the quarantine in Adelaide.

Players have been warned that breaching of the rules could result in heavy fines or being moved to a more secure quarantine complex with police stationed at their doors.

Victoria state's COVID-19 quarantine commissioner Emma Cassar told a news conference Sunday that some

people were "testing" or challenging the quarantine procedures, but there'd been "zero tolerance for that behavior."

"This is designed to make people safe," Cassar, who is also in charge of the state's prisons, said. "We make no apologies for that."

The first three positive tests were announced Saturday and the next two on Sunday. All five cases had tested negative before boarding their flights to Australia. All have now been transferred to a health hotel.

Among them is Sylvain Bruneau, who coaches 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca



## RIDERS

From Page 20

same time feeling a little bit of pressure because this Sunday will be the start of the point race," Hernaez said, who regularly figured in the Top 3 of the Expert Open Class in previous race, as he challenged the father-and-son duo of Cuki and Shane Alvarez.

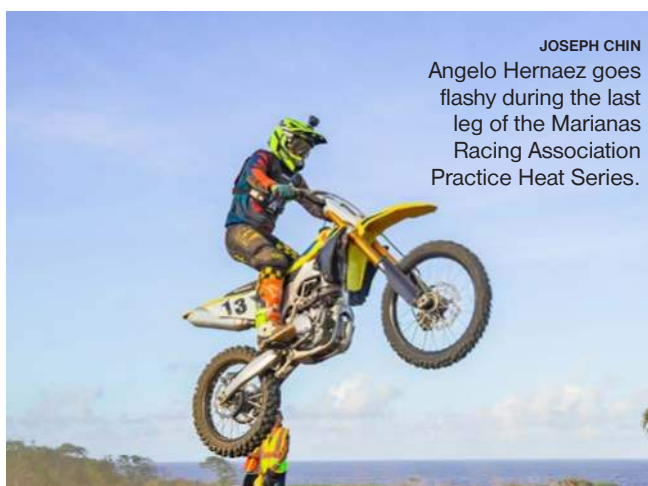
Hernaez said since most of the riders have been through a lot of practice races in the last five months, they have shown significant improvements and this will make each ride in the official season even more competitive. He added that the re-designed course at the Marianas Motocross Park will be a great challenge to each rider.

"It's better than the Kan Pacific course. The raceway is bigger and wider plus there are a lot of jumps—smooth jumps. There is also a big space for the fans, so more people can watch and enjoy the races," Hernaez said.

The MRA 2021 Point Race

Season will be a seven-leg series with the association awarding the Top 3 plates to the riders in each class at the end of the competition. The second to sixth legs are scheduled (subject to changes) for Feb. 28, March 28, April 25, May 30, and June 27, while the season finale will take place on July 25.

Besides the Peewee and Expert Open classes, MRA also holds races in the Minis 1 and 2, Veterans Open, and Novice.



**JOSEPH CHIN**  
Angelo Hernaez goes flashy during the last leg of the Marianas Racing Association Practice Heat Series.



**JOSEPH CHIN**  
Brooklynn Susulin navigates a rocky portion of the course at the Marianas Motocross Park.

## AGAPE

From Page 20

Nicolas.

Agape coach En Yang Pang will handle the Torchbearers' two teams in the boys division. Tychicus Xu will be on Agape 1 along with David Zheng, Simon Shan, Alex Liang, and Eason Tang, while Kevin Tang, Bobby Bao, Antonio Li, Solomon Hu, and Martin Song will compete for Agape 2.

Besides Agape and Mt. Carmel, other teams that will participate in the inaugural interscholastic beach volleyball league are Grace Christian Academy, Marianas High School, Saipan International School, Tinian Junior Senior High School, and Rota's Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School. Rosters from each squad are due today.

The Saipan teams will compete in the round-robin play for the rankings, while Rota and Tinian squads will go

straight to the double-elimination playoffs.

The girls division, which has 10 teams, will play first this Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts, while the boys competition will kick off on Jan. 30. Sixteen games are scheduled in the opening weekend of the girls division and the same set of matches are slated for Feb. 6, while the playoffs will be held on Feb. 19 and 20.

For the boys division, which will also feature 10 squads, the second round of matches will take place on Feb 13, while the playoff round is slated for Feb. 26 and 27.

The interscholastic beach volleyball league will be held in place of the regular indoor 6v6 volleyball, as the PSS Student Support Services Athletic Department is opting for low-risk sports (limited number of participants and in an outdoor setting) at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.





**Brady, Bucs  
oust Saints;  
Chiefs survive**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Zion, Pelicans  
spoil Fox's  
big night for  
Kings**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



## Riders brace for point race

JOSEPH CHIN

Harley Susulin competes in one of the legs in the Marianas Racing Association Practice Heat Series at the Marianas Motocross Park last month.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER

**E**xcitement is brewing as Marianas Racing Association riders brace for the start of the 2021 Point Race Season.



JOSEPH CHIN

Angelo Hernaez, right, is in a close race against Franklin Santos in the Expert Open Class.



Siblings Harley and Brooklynn Susulin, who consistently saw action in the seven-leg MRA Practice Heat Series at the Marianas Motocross Park and at the Kan Pacific grounds and in previous events of the group, are looking forward to the kick-off this Sunday at the renovated course in Marpi (former CowTown Raceway).

Harley competes both in the dirt bike and ATV divisions of the Pee wee Class 1, while her younger sister Brooklynn rides on an ATV and participates in the Pee wee Class 2. Harley is 8 years old, while Brooklyn is 4, and the Susulin sisters are among the more than 20 young riders in the MRA family.

"They are both excited and nervous for this Sunday's race. They enjoy the track so much they ask to ride every day," said Harley and Brooklyn's mother, Vanessa.

"I've seen so much progress from them. They are such fast learners. They are pretty fast on the track now than when they first rode CowTown," Vanessa added.

Meanwhile, Expert Open Class rider Angelo Hernaez shares the same enthusiasm the Susulin siblings are showing as the "real test" nears.

"I am excited and at the

**See RIDERS on Page 19**

## Mt. Carmel, Agape name lineup for beach v-ball

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER



Mt. Carmel School and Agape Christian School were the first teams to submit their rosters for the 2020-2021 Public School System Interscholastic 4v4 Beach Volleyball League that will kick off this Saturday.

The Knights will be fielding two teams each in the girls and boys high school divisions, while the Torchbearers will have two entries in the boys competition.

Fiona Bucalig, Puti'on Palacios-Camacho, Victoria Ancheta, Theresa Rose Schweiger, Kaia Travilla, and Gayle Noreen Vidal will make up MCS 1, which will be coached by Francis San Nicolas. MCS 2, on the other hand, will be handled by coach Randy Steele and has Iver Jude and Izea Dimaun, Tiana Torres, Krissy Rease Cepeda, and Camille Sablan as members.

In the boys division, the Knights will have the same coaches with Steele calling the shots for MCS 1, which is composed of Sam Ryu, Jun Beom Kim, Merrick Toves, Jeremiah Diaz, Richard Steele, and Brandon Lee.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Richard Steele, seen here in this 2018 file photo serving during a youth tournament at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand court, will suit up for Mt. Carmel School 1 in the interscholastic beach volleyball league that will kick off this Saturday.

James Patrick San Nicolas, Earl Gabriel San Nicolas, Skyler Poon, Kevin Kang, Brian Youn, and Vince Phil-

ip Salvador will suit up for MCS 2 of coach Francis San

**See AGAPE on Page 19**